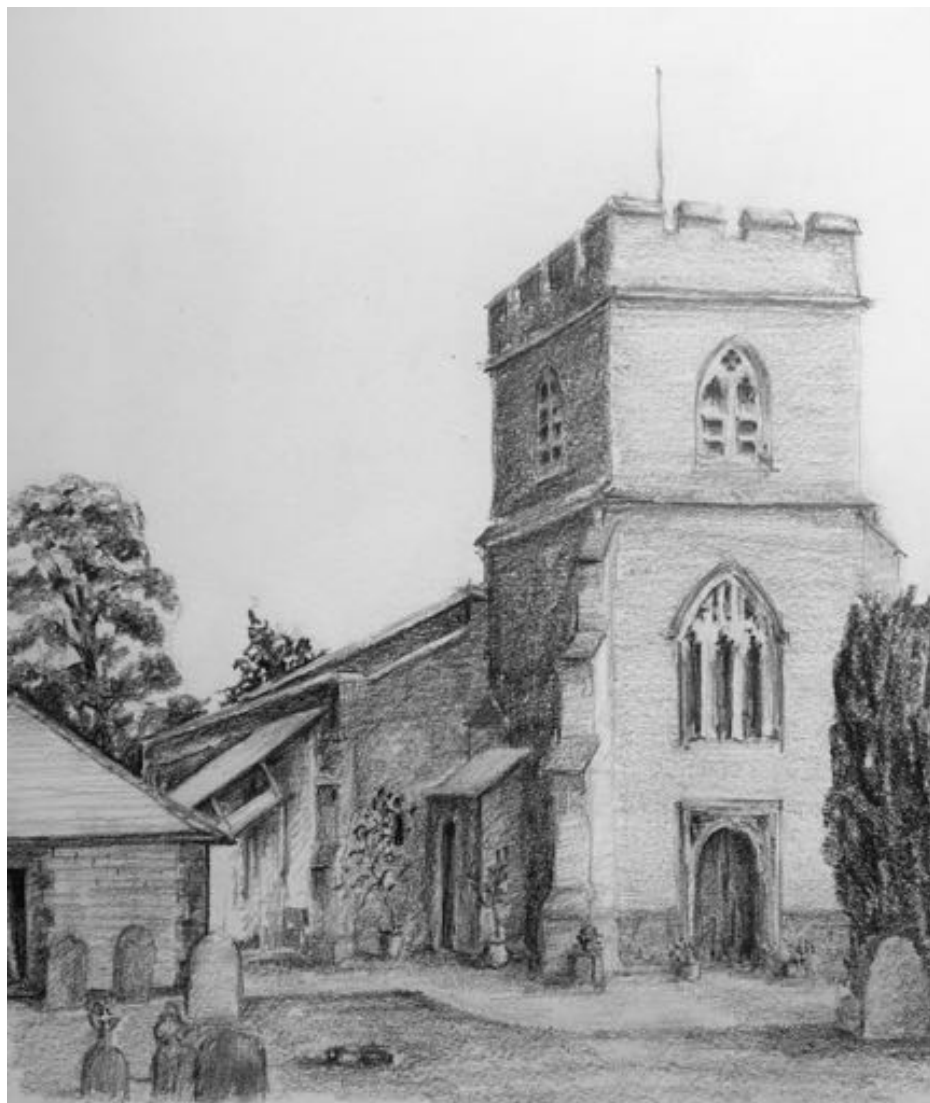


Parish News

St Peter and St Paul, Little Gaddesden

£1.00

February 2022



St Peter and St Paul, Little Gaddesden HP4 1NZ

Berkhamsted Team Revd John Russell

St John's Vicarage, Pipers Hill, Great Gaddesden, HP1 3BY
Tel: 01442 214898 vicar@littlegaddesdenchurch.org.uk

www.littlegaddesdenchurch.org.uk stpeterstpaulittgadd

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:	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 (sometimes with Sunday School)
6.00pm Evening Worship on 1st Sunday of the month,
6.00pm Evensong at Nettleden on the 3rd Sunday of the month
5th Sunday in the month – Joint Eucharist at 9.00am at
Nettleden Church

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

WEEKDAY SERVICE: Thursday 10am Said Eucharist

BELL RINGING: Sunday 9.00 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 45 No.02

Dear Friends,

Last summer we finally did it! After the third time of asking, well, the third planned date, anyway, we managed to get our daughter off our hands. She and her husband were married last July. A great relief on all sorts of levels!

I write this during the season of Epiphany (revelation) and was reminded of that day, when I was re-reading the Wedding at Cana where Jesus turned water into wine.

Now, I am very fond of a good wedding and wedding reception and even though I say it myself, my daughter's was a good wedding and wedding reception... excellent service, great sermon... (I thought!), and particularly good father of the bride's speech... excellent joke, best laugh of the day, so I am told... Fortunately, neither the wine, nor the beer nor anything else ran out!

Can you remember being at a wedding when something has gone disastrously wrong? The Vicar getting the names wrong? The bride arriving very late? Of course there is always the prospect of the embarrassing speech by the best man. Did we really need to know that much about the groom's colourful past, and in such graphic, technicolour detail? Mercifully we were spared that! It good to know though that Jesus liked a wedding and a party, he was after all, fully human! But at this particular wedding things went pear shaped and reluctantly, it seems Jesus gets involved. His intervention is crucial and he rescues the day, by saving the groom from embarrassment, but he also opens the eyes of his mother and disciples present on that fateful day.

The miracle at Cana is the first of the so-called seven signs or revelations, Epiphanies you could say, recorded in John's Gospel. The other six are:

Healing the Royal Official's Son

Healing the paralytic man

Feeding the five thousand

Walking on water

Healing the man born blind

and raising his friend Lazarus

These seven signs begin the process of making the true nature of God known. Seven, as you may know, is a highly significant number associated with perfection, and through the seven signs the significance and truth of Jesus, both perfectly human and divine and his purpose begin to come in to focus.

At that wedding, Jesus didn't just provide sufficient wine of adequate quality to get the groom out of a spot but here was a staggering volume of the very best wine. There was no way the wedding guests could consume all that Jesus provided...

So, what was Jesus actually up to here?

Performing a wonderful healing? No.

Preaching a stunning sermon? No.

Realistically, he went round the back of the bar at a wedding and sorted out the wine problem! Weddings are where people gather and here was Jesus, wanting to be there, to share the joy and the fun of the occasion with his family and friends. It's only what you'd expect, wouldn't you?

Well maybe yes, and no... Isn't God supposed to be serious all the time?? And wrathful and vengeful and a terrifying judge? Yet surely the God in whom we believe, who took such delight in creating the world and all its people, who created out of sheer love, would delight to be with everybody on a day of celebration? Our God's whole being is about the outpouring of goodness and love. The miracle at Cana shows us that Jesus is interested in the ordinary dramas of our lives.

Think for a moment, about the world in the first century Near East; compared with living under Roman occupation, this family crisis was trivial. It was socially embarrassing yes, but hardly earth shattering. Yet Jesus took it seriously, because anyone in trouble is of concern to him.

Our life as a Christian community can often feel dominated by the pressures of keeping the show on the road, The list of things we have to do is endless, yet if all the energy expended is going to be worthwhile, it has to be for a purpose greater than merely ensuring our own survival.

Our purpose is all about serving our community sharing our faith through words and deeds with those with whom we live and work and share our lives. The wedding at Cana is a sort of blueprint, to remind us that we should be concerned and committed to the people around us as Jesus was committed to his community which included resolving an embarrassing problem at a wedding. The outworking of that is the everyday encounter wherever we are and whoever we are with. There was a crisis and Jesus got stuck in and did something about it.

Surely this shows us that God expects to work in partnership with him? We are expected to make known the overwhelming love he has for his creation to work with and for him. Strange though it may sound, I believe God needs us. The events at a nondescript village wedding constituted the first sign through which Jesus revealed his glory. Just a few people noticed; the servants knew where the wine came from, the steward knew it tasted good, but not where it had come from, and the bridegroom?? Blissfully ignorant of everything, apparently.

The Epiphany moment was modest, simple.

By the time you read this, the Epiphany season will have ended, perhaps we may have glimpsed, through a crack in the ordinary, into heaven, a miraculous foretaste of the fuller revelation of glory to come. For us, Cana's simple marriage-feast takes on a messianic meaning and it's a message for the whole world. Dare we believe that we can play our part?

Of course we can!

As Lent approaches let us take stock and prepare ourselves.

I am yours in Christ, John.

Change to Evening Services

For the next three months, there will be one Evening Service at Little Gaddesden Church per month at 6.00pm. This will be on the first Sunday of the month and will be an Evening Worship. There will be a monthly Evensong service on the third Sunday at Nettleden as usual at 6.00 pm. There will be no evening services on the 2nd and 4th weeks of the month but there are Evensong services at Holy Trinity, Potten End at 6.00pm and these are also live-streamed. Visit their website – holyltrinitypottenend.org.uk for details of how to join in.

This change of format at Little Gaddesden will be reviewed in April.

Parish News Subscription

As you will no doubt see from the front cover, we have had to reluctantly increase the price of the Parish News to £ 1.00 per copy. This is due to many reasons but mainly the increased costs of printing paper copies. With having to do this, many alternative ideas have been floated by the PCC – some of these are:

- Stop printing the magazine and encourage all subscribers to read it on-line
- Change to a quarterly format
- Start to include advertising in the magazine to help off-set printing costs
- Continue as we are with the increased subscription
- Stop producing the magazine altogether.

The Editors and the PCC members would love to know your thoughts on the future of the magazine and how you, as the reader, view it. As you will realise, it takes a lot of work to put the magazine together and it is getting harder to find people to take it on.

At the moment, we are not encouraging anyone to sign up for an annual subscription as the future of the Parish News is in doubt. However, if you could pay for your individual copy on-line until a decision is taken, that would be helpful. The details are:

Account Number:	00296015
Account Name:	PCC of Little Gaddesden Parish
Sort Code:	30 94 08
Reference:	(your name) followed by “Parish News”

Please send your comments to a_dmin-church@outlook.com or to the editors’ email editor-pn@littlegaddesdenchurch.org.uk or to any of the PCC members (list outside the shop). Hopefully we will be able to resolve this to the satisfaction of the majority.

Helene Hockings



CAFÉ CHURCH!

A different type of service for everyone and especially families.

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 13th February at 9.30am

Sunday School

We are pleased to announce that Sunday School is taking place during the morning 9.30am service. This won't be every week, but mostly in school term times. All children under 11 years old are welcome to attend and those under 5 should be accompanied by a parent please. There will be crafts and fun in the Thomas Field Hall whilst the service is going on in church.

For February, the dates are:

Sunday 6th February

Sunday 27th February

For more details or to see how you could help, please contact Claire Beard on clairerdonovan@googlemail.com

DOING OUR BIT

When I moved to Little Gaddesden over 15 years ago there were many more birds of hedgerow, woodland, farmland and garden than today. I can recall at least three pairs of yellowhammers, 2 or 3 pairs of lapwings, more skylarks, the occasional barn owl, no shortage of tawny owls and little owls. Amongst many others. Most are now missing. There were about four song thrushes singing in different areas of the Village, I'm only hearing one now. Greenfinches and chaffinches in particular have been devastated due to a virus. Hopefully the goldfinches won't succumb. These natives have all suffered from the massive increase of predators: Corvids, (ie the crow family not a Scotch pronunciation of a virus), raptors and various mammals, lack of safe nesting habitat and intensive farming practices and the thoughtless modernisation of housing. Plastic soffits have a lot to answer for. Robins, wrens, tits and blackbirds have done better, as they will have up to 3 broods a year. Blackbirds get slaughtered in their open nests in shrubs/hedges but continue breeding throughout the year, they are also supplemented by winter visitors. We give the tits in particular, a helping hand with nesting boxes.

Weather conditions, of course, have played a part in our seeing fewer, particularly with the summer visitors. Last year was a shocker: southerly winds spurred swallows and martins here early and the change to north winds, heavy rain and vicious cold spells killed many off; some had started producing young but they died of starvation. Nature is so cruel. There was some recovery and the swifts came back to Ashridge Cottages and bred, thank goodness. They make my summer more than anything else, but there are no longer any house martins in the Village, Wards Hurst Farm hopefully still has nests. At Dagnall last summer there were no martins and just one pair of swallows over the farm.

A particularly harsh winter will force woodland birds to our feeders, like bramblings, and blackcaps, (some overwinter, which is brilliant as they are a particular delicacy in Cyprus particularly). Siskins and lesser spotted woodpeckers have graced my feeders over the years. I'm expecting that since the huge deer culling, there is now more lower undergrowth in the local woods which will provide nesting opportunities for such as thrushes, and nightingales, amongst others. Nightingales used to be quite common here some years ago. (Please get as ambitious with the grey squirrel over-population cull, National Trust!) And what could be nicer than a flock of long tailed tits passing through? I haven't seen any this winter. Hopefully some-one has?

There used to be goldcrests in Bede Court until some residents complained about a beautiful Blue Atlantic Cedar, home to them and also where the barn owl used to hang out, was felled. Criminal. There is much recognition these days about the bigger picture regarding habitat spoiling and loss, talk of re-wilding, sometimes at the cost of prime agricultural land, a balance is needed before idiots glue themselves to motorways: don't sweat the small stuff. IE. recycle responsibly, wash bigger loads at lower temperatures where possible. Use water carefully. Allow daisies, birdsfoot trefoil and ground ivy (not ivy and it has a pretty blue flower) grow on your lawn: they want to, are small, not invasive (unlike buttercups), look beautiful and bees and butterflies need them, just don't mow so short. And why not have an area of lawn that you allow to grow? By mowing a path through it you can see that it's intentional. I did that when I had a lawn and it was lovely. Much less problematic than a wildflower meadow.

The virus killing finches can be spread via feeders, so it's important to clean them and bird baths regularly, you can buy spray cleaner which makes it easier and do be careful to wash your hands after handling feeders, particularly as bird flu is prevalent, brought in by winter migrants from northern climes which has mostly been affecting water birds as most winter visitors are geese, swans and other large flocks feeding on and around stretches of water, seashores and fields around.

I know I go on about hedges, but they are brilliant, but not laurel, it's useless. There are plenty of alternatives providing year round privacy and colour. Please check it out (I have loads of suggestions). Remember that nature is not tidy, please have an area to stack prunings from trees and shrubs. Leaves on the lawn, as well as on the line, are not good, but they are excellent on bare soil, under a hedge or behind the shed. Also, please keep cats in at night, we can't control the badgers and foxes but we can fight back against the grey squirrel. According to Bunny Guinness, top garden designer and GQT panellist, she has bought a kilo of cayenne pepper, carefully placing half a teaspoon on top of her tulip bulbs, apparently they hate it. I would add some through feeders as well. She has also been trying a trap which kills them swiftly. (It is illegal to free a live grey from a trap, it must be despatched.) It's expensive, £169. but effective. It's a Goodnature A18 model. A grey can easily do that much damage to trees, bulbs, root vegetables and feeders also electric wiring if they get in the loft, not to mention songbird eggs and young from the nests. So, please, let's have a think and try to do our bit, as they used to say.

Josie Jeffrey

LENT LUNCHES

These are held every **Friday** in the Thomas Field Hall
from 4th March and continue until 8th April.

They are held in the Thomas Field Hall from 12.30pm – 1.30pm
For the small sum of £5.00 you can enjoy a bowl (or two) of delicious soup,
bread and cheese, fruit, tea or coffee.

Come and chat with old friends and meet new ones.
Any surplus money (after expenses) will go to a local charity.
If you can help, please do ring Virginia to offer your services,
otherwise she may call you!

Virginia (842428)



This year there is to be a celebration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee which gives us all a chance to celebrate the Queen's life of faithful service. This Jubilee is being marked by an extended bank holiday weekend from Thursday 2nd to Sunday 5th June 2022. Details of what will be happening in the village will be outlined soon but in the meantime everyone is encouraged to play their part to make this a wonderful year of celebration.

Did you know that Jubilee is a biblical concept? The year of Jubilee was a year to release people from their debts, releasing all enslaved people, resting and being with loved ones. Jubilee in the bible is about radical justice and inclusive community. The values at the heart of biblical jubilee – equality, freedom, celebration and rest – are values that Jesus proclaims and fulfils with the good news of the Kingdom. As Christians, we are the bearers and sharers of this good news – the good news that all are invited, all are free and all are equal in Christ.

We are being encouraged to party together, improve and enhance our communities and put ourselves out there to assist those less fortunate than ourselves. For more ideas, visit theplatinumjubilee.com website.

From the Registers:

December:

9 th	Burial of Ashes	Geoffrey Price, Betty Wilson, Kenneth Wilson
23 rd	Funeral	Alban Purple

January 2022:

6 th	Memorial Service	Hilary Willis
18 th	Funeral	Gillian Mole
22 nd	Baptism	Ivy Grace Rogers



Fairtrade Fortnight 21st February – 6th March Choose the World you Want Festival

For two weeks each year at the end of February and the start of March, thousands of individuals, companies and groups across the UK come together to share the stories of the people who grow our food and drinks, mine our gold and who grow the cotton in our clothes, people who are often exploited and underpaid.

Since last Fairtrade Fortnight there have been the G7 and COP26 summits. Over 33,000 campaigners joined 1.8m Fairtrade farmers and workers in backing the Be Fair With Your Climate Promise challenge to world leaders at the UN COP26 summit. But the wealthiest nations failed to recognise the urgent need to invest in farmer expertise by delaying their promised \$100bn annual funding to the most climate vulnerable countries until 2023.

Fairtrade is about social, economic and environmental justice. A root cause of the inability to adapt to and mitigate climate change is poverty. More money in the hands of farmers is needed if they are to adapt and survive the climate crisis. Choosing Fairtrade fights for improvements in producers' livelihoods with collective strength through co-ops and their bargaining power, the protection of Minimum Price and Fairtrade Premiums.

For more information visit their website at fairtrade.org.uk

DRY JANUARY

Dry January? I mean, really, why?
So cold as we shiver 'neath darkly lowering sky,
A long, miserable month and we really need some cheer,
Possibly in the form of a G&T, a sherry or a beer.
And what's the point of dieting when you need a bit of stodge?
Although scoffing lemon drizzle cake does pile on the podge,
But you're feeling cheerier, cuddling a little glass of wine,
And with my bright idea, here's how you draw the line,
Dry February! Just 28 days with sun and spring in sight,
Even 'though the port's all gone and the jeans are somewhat tight.

Josie Jeffrey



VPA Winter Show

Saturday 12th February
at 2.30pm at The Village Hall.

Entries need to be in place on the morning of the
show between 9am and 10.45am.

Judging begins at 11.00am.

Tea, coffee and cake for sale.

Prize Giving at 3.30pm

Entry is £1.00 (Free for under 16s)

Visit lgvpa.org for show schedule with all class details



PLATINUM JUBILEE WEEKEND MEETING

Saturday 5th February at 10.00am

A meeting in the Thomas Field Hall to discuss the
Platinum Jubilee Weekend celebrations.

Refreshments available.

All welcome to attend including
representatives of all the Village Societies.



LIVING IN LOVE & FAITH

OUR LENT COURSE

hosted by Rev Joe Roberts & Richard Hackworth

How do questions about identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage fit within the bigger picture of the good news of Jesus Christ? What does it mean to be human and to live in love and faith together as a Church?

Pray, study and learn together - play your part in discovering what is God's call to the Church of England today.

This five session Course will begin at some point in the week commencing 7th March. Each session will explore one key topic, with an opening reflection about learning and listening together, followed by teaching, time for discussion and bible study. The sessions end with an invitation to reflect on our learning, bringing it to God in prayer.

If you are interested in being a part of this shared conversation and learning together, then please contact Rev Joe Roberts on 01442 865217, or vicar@holytrinitypottenend.org.uk with what is the most convenient day/time for you to attend.

We have three options: *Monday at 1.30pm, Tuesday at 7.30pm or Thursday at 10am*, we will go with the day with the most interest. Please contact Joe by **Sunday 13th February**.

The Course will be held at
Holy Trinity, Potten End.
All are welcome.



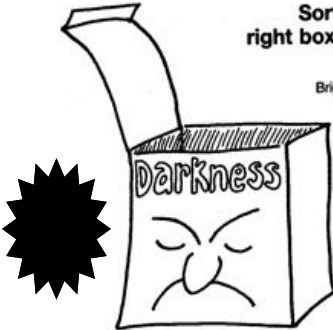
CHILDREN'S PAGE

February 2nd is called CANDLEMAS, and we remember when the baby Jesus was blessed at the Temple in Jerusalem. You can read the story in St. Luke, chapter 2, verses 22 to 40.

Jesus talks about LIGHT many times. Read St. Luke, chapter 11 verses 33-36 where he says that YOU have LIGHT inside you. Not a real flame, but a deep happiness that shines out of you when you live your life God's way. Look at people's eyes; what shines out of them?

If you think about the things we say and do, some of them are GOOD, or LIGHT, and some of them BAD, or DARK. Look at the things below and draw a line to the box they should be put in to. Which box do you think holds the things God would want you to do or be?

Sort these words into the right boxes-- (you can add your own)



Darkness

Brightness Night Joy

Happiness Blindness Glow

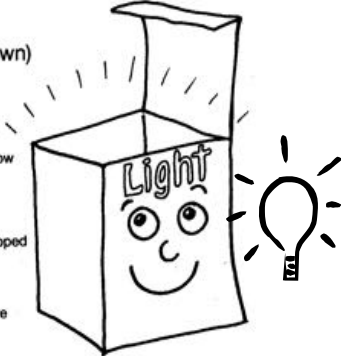
Gloom Black White

Sight Clear Trapped

Life Day

Hatred Death Love

Free Misery

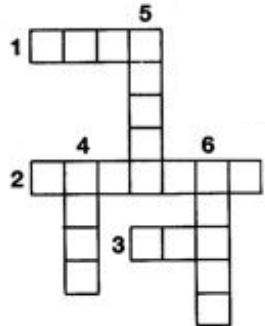


Light

LIGHT AND DARKNESS

- 1 across - Matthew 17:1-2
Who did Jesus describe as "a lamp that burned and gave light" (4)
- 2 across - Matthew 17:1-3
At the Transfiguration what became as white as the light (7)
- 3 across - Genesis 1:3-5
and 5 down What did God call the light and the darkness (3 & 5)
- 4 down - Mark 5:15
What sort of light does Jesus speak about (4)
- 5 down - see 3 across
- 6 down - Exodus 10:21-23
Which country was covered by darkness for three days (5)

WORD FIT



PRAYER PAGE

Almighty God, the fountain of all goodness,
bless our Sovereign Lady, Queen Elizabeth,
and all who are in authority under her;
that they may order all things in wisdom and equity,
righteousness and peace, to the honour and glory of your name
and the good of your Church and people;
through 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

My prayers, my God, flow from what I am not;
I think thy answers make me what I am.
Like weary waves thought follows upon thought,
but the still depth beneath is all thine own,
and there thou mov'st in paths to us unknown.
Out of strange strife thy peace is strangely wrought;
If the lion in us pray – thou answerest the lamb.

Amen

George Macdonald (1824-1905)

O Lord our God,
give us by thy Holy Spirit
a willing heart and a ready hand
to use all they gifts to thy praise and glory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Thomas Cranmer (1489-1556)

Parish News Editors:

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

Deadline Date for next edition of Magazine: Friday 18th February

Please note new Deadline Day – Friday instead of Sunday

CHURCH SERVICES – FEBRUARY

I Sunday 7th February – 4th Sunday before Lent		
9.00am	Morning Prayer	Nettleden
9.30am	Parish Communion (with Sunday School)	Little Gaddesden
11.00am	Parish Communion	Great Gaddesden
6.00pm	Evening Worship	Little Gaddesden
II Sunday 13th February – 3rd Sunday before Lent		
9.00am	Morning Prayer	Nettleden
9.30am	Café Church	Little Gaddesden
11.00am	Café Church	Great Gaddesden
III Sunday 20th – 2nd Sunday before Lent		
9.30am	Parish Communion	Little Gaddesden
11.00am	Parish Communion	Great Gaddesden
6.00pm	Evensong	Nettleden
IV Sunday 27th Sunday next before Lent		
9.00am	Morning Prayer	Nettleden
9.30am	Parish Communion (with Sunday School)	Little Gaddesden
11.00am	Parish Communion	Great Gaddesden
Wednesday 2nd March – Ash Wednesday		
8.00pm	Sung Eucharist with imposition of Ashes	Great Gaddesden
I Sunday 6th March – Lent 1		
9.00am	Morning Prayer	Nettleden
9.30am	Parish Communion (with Sunday School)	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

Please note - on Thursday 10th and 17th February there are no Holy Communion services at Little Gaddesden

littlegaddesdenchurch.org.uk