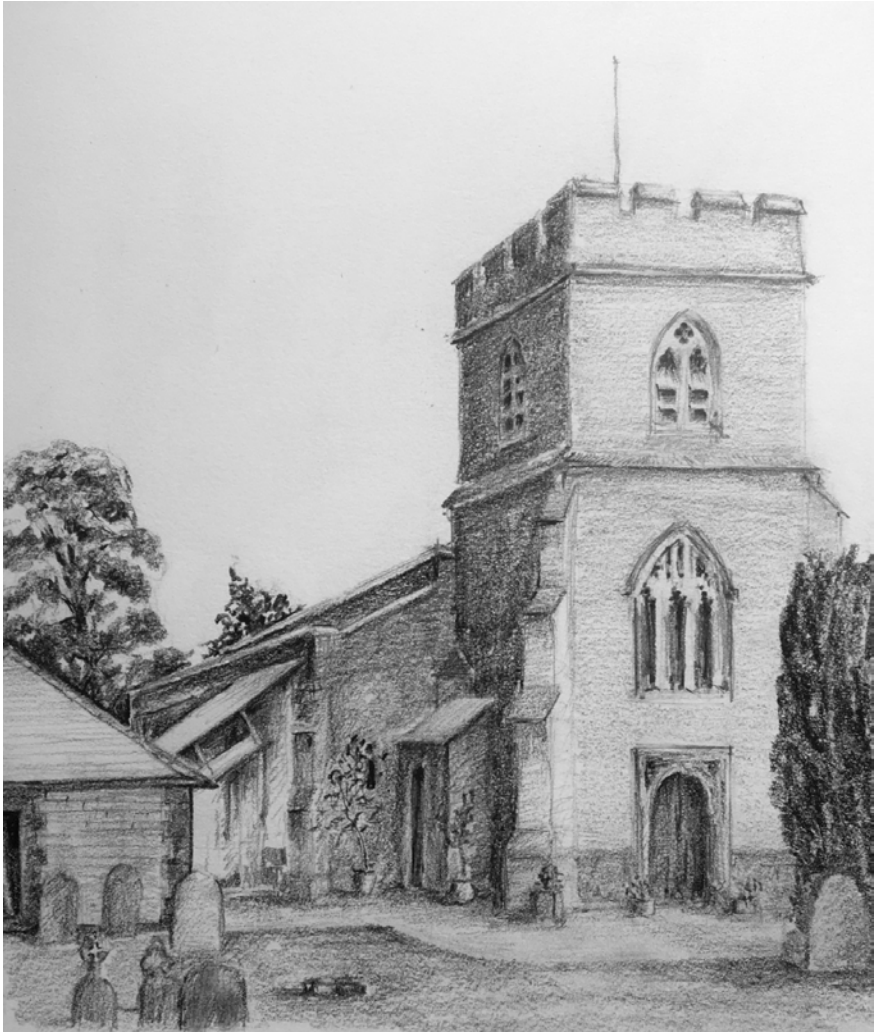


# Parish News

St Peter and St Paul, Little Gaddesden

£ 1.00

September 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 221898

**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 Terri Adams, Kaim End 842746  
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 B Sheard 843591
- SUNDAY SERVICES: Our Services are:  
9.30am Eucharist Service (sometimes with Sunday School)  
6pm Evening Prayer on 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month  
6pm Evensong at Nettleden on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month  
5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in the month – Joint Eucharist at 9.00am at  
Nettleden Church
- THOMAS FIELD HALL: Email - [tfh.bookings@littlegaddesdenchurch.org.uk](mailto:tfh.bookings@littlegaddesdenchurch.org.uk)
- WEEKDAY SERVICE: Thursday 10am Said Eucharist
- BELL RINGING: Sunday 9.00am Practice: Tuesday 8.00 pm  
Tower Captain – Mrs Virginia Westmacott LG 842428
- CHOIR PRACTICE: Friday 7.00pm – 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](mailto: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](mailto:a_dmin-church@outlook.com)  
by 9 am on each Thursday
- PARISH ADMINISTRATOR: Helene Hockings on [a\\_dmin-church@outlook.com](mailto:a_dmin-church@outlook.com) or 842493

Vol 45 No.09

Dear Friends,

I hope you've had a good Summer and are ready to go for the Autumn, with the start of a new school year and with all the joys of the changing season. When I was growing up, God was definitely an Englishman 10 feet tall! Well, he was, wasn't he? And God was definitely a 'he'; but in these fast-changing times everything is constantly open to question.

So, if you were to stop and think about it, what image comes to mind when you think of God? A few years ago, author Cole Moreton wrote a book entitled *'Is God still an Englishman?'*. Well of course, he never was! Moreton's was more of a reflection on how our relationship with God, as a country, has changed. Indeed, the debate continues as to whether or not we are even a 'Christian country'.

Whether you are a believer or not, I think the vast majority of people would know the Lord's Prayer, which of course begins: *'Our Father, who art in heaven'*.

I suspect that many of us have grown up thinking of 'God our Father' as the old **white** man with a beard, who lived somewhere up in the clouds over the rainbow! Certainly, in some churches, we see exactly that in the paintings, or stained-glass windows. Is that what comes to mind when you hear or pray the words *'Our Father'*?

Through the whole of biblical history, theologians have wrestled with who, or even what, God is and with continued advances in science, it's inevitable that we might begin to think of God more as an 'it' than a 'he'. Those recent pictures from the new James Webb telescope show an even greater depth to the incredible universe, of which we are part, and leaves us gasping as to the creative force behind it.

We talk of the peace of God being beyond our understanding and so is creation. If we want to try to understand why God is so totally and utterly different from us, those pictures of deep space are enough to blow our minds and yet through Jesus, we believe we are made in the image of God.

A real paradox.

From the earliest times, Christian theologians have understood that however close we can get to describing God, God is further still than that.

In the bible you will find God referred to in many terms certainly as both male and female, father and mother. So, when Jesus teaches us to say 'Our Father', he's using one image of God, with which he himself would have been familiar having grown up with (what we call the Old Testament), where in the book of Genesis, we read that God makes 'male and female' in God's own image, remembering that an image is hardly the real thing.

So, trying to define God in gender terms soon proves to be lacking. We could say that God is way beyond female or male; but that means we will need to use both female and male language for God and if we referred to God as sexless, or genderless, then God becomes an 'it', or a 'thing', yet we endow him or her with the mindset of a human being, because as we know, we are created in the image of God

Children definitely get confused; is God really Father Christmas, or indeed the Vicar? Don't laugh, a number of school children used to think I lived in the church and therefore I was God!!!

At the heart of the Christian faith is the mystery of God coming to us as a baby! The incarnation; not an old man, but young and certainly fully human as well as divine, and at the same time we have to try to grasp the reality of God is beyond all created time.

And white? Hardly. *'The Christ We Share'*, an exhibition which went around the country a few years ago, was a series of images of Jesus from around the world, reminding us that every culture has painted Christ in its own image. There's something inherently right about God who becomes human, being reflected in the art of differing cultures, being like the people of the place in which he is being worshipped.

We see images of a white Jesus, or a white Father God, but we must be mindful that our faith comes from a place where people had brown skin.

There are a lot of very useful You Tube short films called *'Saddleback kids'* in which Jesus is always a little Mexican. They are quite amusing and the children love them, but the figure portrayed is neither a frightening tyrant nor even a fatherlike figure.

As we grapple in our understanding of who and what God is, the images that others create can be a source of inspiration. Because we are all affected by our ethnicity, our background and our upbringing. Think how difficult it must

be to think of God in parental terms if you have grown up in a violent or abusive home?

So, whilst God is unchanging, our image of him and other people's image of him, will be heavily affected by our life experience. It may be a positive image but it could be a negative one, making people hostile to any concept of God... Especially of God 'our Father in heaven,' however tall he happens to be!  
I am yours in Christ,  
John.

### **A SUMMER'S DAY AT COLLEGE LAKE**

If full of fear and mean despair,  
Do as the Poet said, just stand and stare.  
See trefoil and ladies bedstraw golden glow,  
Their gifts of sweet nectar to bestow.

A whitethroat guards its nest, as to the manor born  
Teases with melodic song, hidden in hedgerow leaf and thorn.  
Butterflies with endless grace  
Seem to illuminate this peaceful place.

Here, the ducking and diving of dragon flies  
Like early 'planes enjoy the freedom of the skies.  
Pure blue scabious turn pretty faces to the sky  
And over the water a graceful sea swallow catches the eye.

You hold your breath, it must surely hit the lake,  
Then, "Ooh a 3 point (common) tern," before it hits the brake.  
Somehow, at super speed, it makes a successful snatch,  
It's slim beak sporting now a fishy catch.

And should your heart be in need of a summer's lift  
The College Lake lapwings are nature's gift,  
They soar and tumble, dance and glide,  
A wondrous sight from your cosy hide.

Josie Jeffrey

## THE DRY VILLAGE

In Little Gaddesden, in the late 18<sup>th</sup> Century, they were often praying for rain. Villagers had no flowing streams to tap into and the River Gade was at least a mile away in the Gade valley. Instead, there were a selection of ponds and many houses had their own wells.

When the monks, the Bonhommes, first came to Ashridge around 1250, one of the first things they did was have a well drilled into the chalk. They had to dig down 224 feet to ensure a secure water supply. As the village increased in size, so did the demand for water, and in 1777 a very dry summer meant that the water levels in those wells had begun to shrink. What water was left was hardly fit to drink. The then Rector, David Jenks, wrote the following, on the flyleaf of the Register of Burials.

*"Mem.. That in October in the year One Thousand Seven Hundred and Seventy Eight,*

*The pond upon the Hill, called Blew Pot was Clean'd.*

*Most of the Ponds were dry. Water was very scarce and Bad.*

*The Well in the bottom near Rigg's Lane was quite dry for Several months, and the Well at Mr Thomas Elton's" (The Manor House) "was in the same state. He sunk it Six Feet Deeper when the Spring rushed in very fast – The well at Ashridge was only Eighteen Feet Deep in Water – Several of the Inhabitants sent Barrels to fetch water from Great Gaddesden River for family use.*

*Blew Pot had not been cleaned for Sixty Four Years before this time.*

*The Summer preceding had been uncommonly Dry and Hot and very little or no rain had fallen in the foregoing Winter – (David Jenks)"*

Matters do not seem to have improved by the following year.

*"1779 Mr Elton's Well was dry and he sunk it Ten Feet Deeper – The well at Ashridge was fathom'd the Third day of November. It was sixteen feet and a half deep in Water – David Jenks"*

The Rector himself decided he had better look after his own well

*"1780 The Pond in the parsonage Garden was cleaned – David Jenks Not having been clean'd for Sixty Years".*

We must presume that there were few, if any, water crises in the following few years because the next entry on the flyleaf comes over half a century later.

*"1835 The above-mentioned pond was once again cleaned – David Jenks Rector, Great nephew to aforesaid DJ."*

Thirty-five years later, however, the ponds seem to have lost their importance

“1870 The above-mentioned pond was filled in and the road for the new stables made across it. Charlton G Lane, Rector”.

What had happened?

The answer is that the whirlwind called Lady Marian Alford had been at work. She was the widowed mother of the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Earls Brownlow, who were still teenagers. Until they came of age, she was very much in charge at Ashridge, with access to considerable funds, which she began to spend, much of it to the great benefit of the villagers of Little Gaddesden.

Waterworks were constructed between 1856 and 1858. A well was dug 225ft down and a bore hole which went down 317 feet below the surface. A reservoir was built at Ringshall Meadows, and Ashridge Pumping station built in Little Gaddesden, at what was the Works Yard behind the Red House. (Consumption in 1930 was about 20,000 gallons per day. By 1980 it was up to 200,000 gallons per day, according to the season).

Lady Marian then got to work improving the cottages in the village and building new ones, but she was interested in improving minds as well as bodies.

In 1858, as fresh water began to flow, a new schoolroom was opened. For the previous 4 years, the headmaster, John Worrall, had operated from a room in the Bridgwater Arms Inn. (As objections had been raised to the children going through the door and the tap room, they had to climb in through a window). A Reading room for adults was opened in the Manor House, and much improving literature was provided.

Lady Marian also wished to give the church a makeover and offered a harmonium to be used to help the hymn singing but the Rector, David Jenks, would have none of it. He was an extremely conservative churchman. Lady Marian had to wait until he died in 1869, after 40 years at the church, before she could set about the refurbishment that we see today, and which was completed by her younger son.

Next time you turn on the tap, think of the great Victorian lady who made that possible and be grateful that you do not have to hire a donkey to carry a barrel to the river at Great Gaddesden and back, before you can have a shower.

Roger Bolton

## THOSE LAZY, HAZY, GEESEY DAYS OF SUMMER

Everywhere there is water; on rivers, canals and lakes, there is squawking, pooing, aggressive gangs of Canada geese. To Canada I say, 'Canada, thank you for your maple syrup, Mounties, big bear videos - all much appreciated, but not so much for your pesky geese'.

So, how to reduce their numbers? Goose is good to eat, - lots of protein. Goose grease is good protection against winter ailments, applied liberally to children prior to wrapping them in warm clout for winter (as in: cast nowt until May be out). Old English folk wisdom we might do well to remember.

I believe that, in some areas breeding is interfered with, but that must be quite embarrassing. What do they do: shuffle their feet and politely cough? Probably best to feed them with the contraceptive pill or make them watch old episodes of Crossroads. So, what has brought this nonsense on? Well, I escaped to College Lake several times over the summer and the predominant sound is their loud squawking, drowning out the calls of moorhens, coots and other more melodious avians. The Canada geese, invasive migrants, have taken over here, as everywhere else they have touched down, pushing out native species and other, more amenable visitors. Think grey squirrels of the water.

I do hear though, that plans are under way to feed the greys something which will render the males infertile so they will eventually die out. Hopefully, Chris Packham will be reined in at that point and prevented from saving them. In the meantime, to whet the appetite for roast Canada goose, I'm thinking grey squirrel pate for starters. Yum.

In June the orchids were lovely, common spotted mainly, followed by pyramidal. I never saw any bee orchids but that could have been just me. July brought the most fantastic display of wild flowers: gorgeous knapweed (the name doesn't do the flower justice), field scabious, sweet pea, ladies bedstraw, meadowsweet, marjoram, dog roses, to name a few.

It has not been a good year for butterflies, due to cold weather last year when we went from winter, direct to summer some time in June, having missed out on Spring altogether. There were fewer chalk hill and common blues, but I saw some commas, my favourite, also lots of little brown jobs: wall browns, meadow and hedge browns. Marbled whites showed up too. Elsewhere I have seen fewer small tortoiseshell, but some painted ladies this summer.



That cloud did have a silver lining however, as fewer cabbage whites this year. Lose some, win some.

I love to watch the dragon flies although I cannot tell the types apart, just some as big as six inches, daredevil pilots, whizzing through the air and doing handbrake turns, fascinating. I read somewhere that they survived the ice age, as did the gingko biloba tree (useful facts dropped in in case the questions should come up in a quiz).

Road kill index. Bunnies and fox cubs. No road sense, sadly. Amongst others, there was a deer on the hill going down to Dagnall. They have been hitting local gardens again, so it would appear they are recovering from the severe culls. There were droppings in Church Road the other day (or was there a goat escape again?). Always something going on.

Josie Jeffrey

### ***From the Registers:***

July:

2 <sup>nd</sup>	Holy Matrimony	Matthew Deegan and Annabel Archer
17 <sup>th</sup>	Holy Baptism	Oliver Priestley
30 <sup>th</sup>	Holy Matrimony	James Dingle and Victoria Walker

August:

1 <sup>st</sup>	Funeral	Ronald Waters
4 <sup>th</sup>	Burial of Ashes	Geoffrey Wicks
6 <sup>th</sup>	Holy Matrimony	Jed Cullen and Camille Benett

## HARVEST HOME

We will be celebrating our harvest festival on September 18<sup>th</sup> this year. It should be a very enjoyable occasion with the church full of flowers, harvested crops, and food. However, it will not play such a large part in village life, or be as well attended, as the Harvest Home on October 6<sup>th</sup> 1880, just over 140 years ago. I came across this account in the parish "Annals", which I am transcribing. It was written by the then Rector, Charlton George Lane.

*"1881 had been a difficult year.*

*The hay season very trying. Heavy thunderstorms deluged the crops. The proprietor of the Bridgwater Arms, Mr Norris, who depends on the hay for rent much bothered.*

*This additional trial to his home troubles has almost taken away his reason. August 10 he had a stroke and never recovered his mental powers – died Sept 13".*

*Fortunately, "the Harvest well got in during very dry and sunny weather".....*

*"October 6 Our Harvest Home.*

*The day raining and getting worse in the afternoon – could not have been worse, yet our service was very hearty. Church crammed. Singing particularly good. Prayers said by me.*

*Rev A. Lloyd preached an admirable sermon.*

*Ruth 2.19 "Where hast thou gleaned today".....*

*After Service the Band conducted us to Ashridge where Allison provided an excellent dinner.*

*It was a comfort to have a sheltered and dry place for 400 men and women to dine. After dinner the gardens were thrown open – but incessant rain stopped much outdoor enjoyment. Tea was given to the schoolchildren.*

*At 7.30 there was a dance in the schoolroom – about 60 were present. Mrs Lane and myself attended by my two pupils, DuCane and Lord Clifden. The domestic servants went down to take part in it- all went off extremely well. It was a pleasant conclusion to the day."*

Doubtless, you only got the free dinner if you attended church first, so the congregation at that Harvest Home would have been around 400. It must have been really crammed!

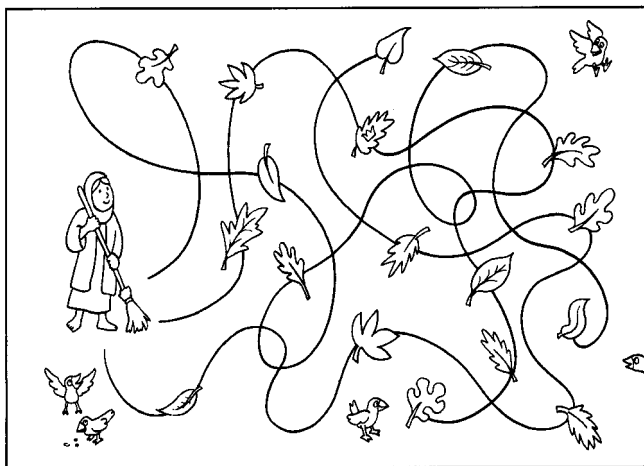
Roger Bolton

# CHILDREN'S PAGE

JESUS told many stories to help people to understand how they are loved by God, no matter how many bad things they have done. Once they understand where they have gone wrong and say they are sorry and they want to start again, they can feel God's love for them. Here is one of the stories:

*"Suppose a woman has ten silver coins and loses one of them. What does she do? She lights a lamp, sweeps her house and looks carefully everywhere until she finds it. When she finds it, she calls her friends and neighbours together and says to them, 'I am so happy. I found the coin I lost. Let us celebrate!'"*

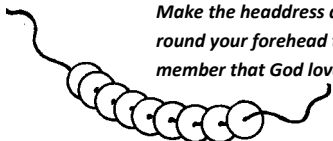
*In the same way, the angels of God rejoice over one sinner who repents."*



Jesus told about a woman who lost a silver coin. She swept her house until she found it.  
Which path has the most leaves to sweep? You can read about this in Luke ch.15 v 8-10

## ~ Make a Coin Headdress

*Make the headdress and tie it round your forehead to remember that God loves you*



### You will need:

- thin card
- scissors
- a 5p coin
- gold or silver paint or sweet papers and bits of foil
- a length of string or narrow ribbon to tie round your head
- a bodkin

1. Trace around the 5p coin to make as many coins as you want.
2. Cut them out.
3. Paint or spray them, or cover them in foil.
4. Thread through the centre of each with the bodkin and string or ribbon.

## A SHORT SUMMER PILGRIMAGE

It was hardly a pilgrimage like that made by Annabelle Grassini to Santiago de Compostela, being a mere 2 miles rather than many hundreds, but it felt hot enough. At 6 pm on Wednesday, 20<sup>th</sup> July, 21 parishioners from the Gaddesdens gathered in our church to hear Brother John Mayhead OSB from Turvey monastery talk about the monastic life, before walking with him to the site of St Margaret's Monastery, a Benedictine foundation dissolved by Henry 8<sup>th</sup>. (The 20<sup>th</sup> July is the Saint's feast day.)

The previous two days had been the hottest since records began, but, as we sat in the church, rain began to fall, and a slight but welcome drizzle accompanied us on our journey, as we walked through the dazzling gold of the fields of wheat and barley to Hudnall and then St Margarets. Heather Tisbury had prepared beautiful readings, prayers, and blessings to accompany us. We carried stones and made three cairns on the way, at each of which we reflected on the lives of the nuns and our own relationship with God and nature.

At Covetous Corner we paused to discuss why it was so called, the most likely theory being that it was the place where nuns heard a sermon on covetousness as they marked the bounds of their lands.

When we arrived at the site of the monastery, in a field next to St Margarets farm, we sang the hymn which begins, "Be Still for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One is here". We gazed at the field, the ghostly trees, and the lumps in the ground, which is all that remains of the place where, for 400 years, women worshipped, and cared for the sick and dying.

It is, indeed, a holy place.

Miranda Seldon, who led the walk, read the Blessing, which is taken from Iona Worship.

"Deep peace of the running waves to you  
Deep peace of the flowing air to you  
Deep peace of the quiet earth to you  
Deep peace of the shining stars to you  
Deep peace of the gentle night to you  
Moon and stars pour their healing light to you  
Deep peace of Christ, the light of the world to you  
Deep peace of Christ to you".

And then we parted and walked our different ways home.

ROGER BOLTON

If you would like to know more about St Margarets, there are booklets available in Little Gaddesden Church. Please make a donation. It is hoped to make a parish outing to Brother John's monastery at Turvey, near Bedford, later in the year



## **Julian Meetings**

Julian Meetings “foster the teaching and practice of contemplative prayer in the Christian tradition”.

At a time when Eastern forms of meditation were being popularised, Christians rediscovered their own contemplative roots and several Christian silent prayer networks developed. Julian Meetings will be celebrating their 50th anniversary next year. The JM originator came from Norwich and many early members from across the country suggested the name of Julian as she held that the highest form of prayer was simply waiting on God.

All Julian Meetings include a time of silence, usually between 20-30 minutes but the readings or music that are used vary according to the choice of the individual group, and the size of the groups varies between about 6 to 12 people.

There is an excellent Julian Meetings website: **[www.thejulianmeetings.net](http://www.thejulianmeetings.net)** which gives all the information about how it is run and also includes a map showing where the 200 meetings in this country are. If anyone would like to know about the monthly Julian Meeting held in Little Gaddesden please get in touch with me.

Barbara Day 01442842407 or **[barbara.day62@btinternet.com](mailto:barbara.day62@btinternet.com)**

## **Sponsored Bike ‘n Hike, Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2022**

This years Sponsored Bike ‘n Hike in aid of Beds and Herts Historic Churches Trust will take place on Saturday the 10<sup>th</sup> of September between 9am and 5pm. Cyclists and hikers take part in visiting as many churches in Beds and Herts as they like during the day, raising money for the Historic Churches Trust. Many churches will be open, offering refreshments.

Sponsor forms are available at the back of the church for those wishing to take part. For more information, please contact Peter Leonhardt (01442 843550) or see the website for general info.

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

Peter Leonhardt

## **Prayer Page**

### **House Wide enough for All**

Father of all humankind,  
make the roof of our house wide enough for all opinions,  
oil the door of our house so it opens easily to friend and stranger  
and set such a table in our house  
that our whole family may speak kindly and freely around it.

Amen  
A Prayer from Hawaii

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

### **For a first day at school or university**

O God, the strength of my life,  
make known your will for me in this place:  
help me to discover friends among strangers,  
to meet opportunities and challenges eagerly,  
and to do my daily tasks in your name.  
Give me strength to overcome my worries,  
and preserve me in your safe keeping,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

## CHURCH SERVICES – SEPTEMBER

<b>I Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> September – Trinity 12</b>		
9.00am	Morning Prayer	Nettleden
9.30am	Parish Communion	Little Gaddesden
11.00am	Parish Communion	Great Gaddesden
6.00pm	Evening Prayer	Little Gaddesden
<b>II Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> September – Trinity 13 / Harvest Festival</b>		
9.00am	Morning Prayer – Harvest Festival	Nettleden
9.30am	Café Church – Trinity 13	Little Gaddesden
11.00am	Harvest Festival Service	Great Gaddesden
<b>III Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> September – Trinity 14 / Harvest Festival</b>		
9.30am	Harvest Festival Service	Little Gaddesden
11.00am	Parish Communion – Trinity 14	Great Gaddesden
6.00pm	Evensong – Trinity 14	Nettleden
<b>IV Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> September – Trinity 15</b>		
9.00am	Morning Prayer	Nettleden
9.30am	Parish Communion	Little Gaddesden
11.00am	Parish Communion	Great Gaddesden
<b>I Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> October – Trinity 16</b>		
9.00am	Morning Prayer	Nettleden
9.30am	Parish Communion	Little Gaddesden
11.00am	Parish Communion	Great Gaddesden
6.00pm	Evening Prayer	Little Gaddesden

<b>Mid-Week Services</b>		
Tuesdays	9.00am Holy Communion	Great Gaddesden
Thursdays	10.00am Holy Communion	Little Gaddesden
Please note that on Tuesdays 4 <sup>th</sup> and 11 <sup>th</sup> October, the 9.00am Great Gaddesden service will be Morning Prayer.		

### **Parish News Editors:**

Helene Hockings, Nick Murray, David Nowell-Withers, Mike Walsham  
[editor-pn@littlegaddesdenchurch.org.uk](mailto:editor-pn@littlegaddesdenchurch.org.uk)

**Deadline Date: Friday 17<sup>th</sup> September**