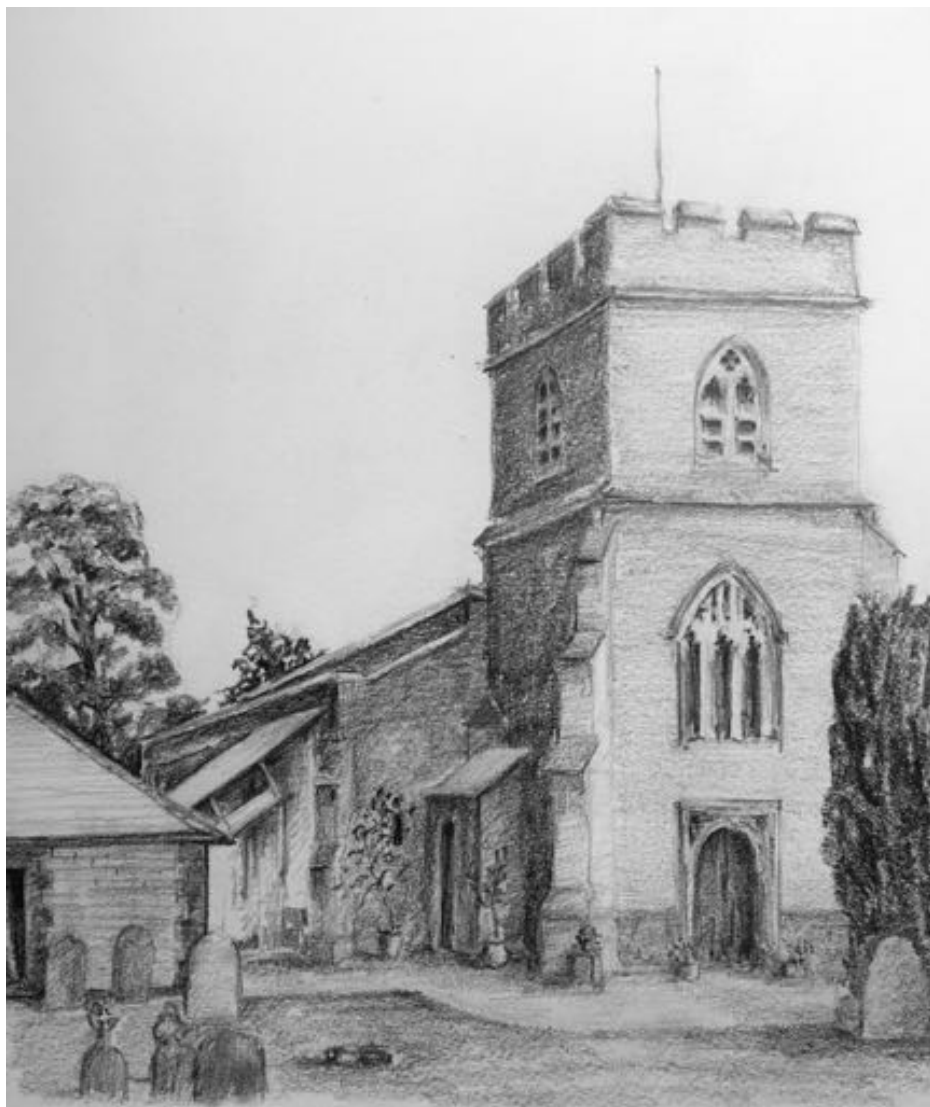


Parish News

St Peter and St Paul, Little Gaddesden

£ 1.00

March 2023



St Peter and St Paul, Little Gaddesden HP4 1NZ

Berkhamsted Team

Revd John Russell, Team Rector

St John's Vicarage, Pipers Hill, Great Gaddesden, HP1 3BY

Tel: 01442 214898, 07950 105802

vicar@littlegaddesdenchurch.org.uk

www.littlegaddesdenchurch.org.uk

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:	Terri Adams, Kaim End	842746
	David Scriven, Gaddesden House	843783
READERS:	Anthony Archer	842397
	Heather Tisbury	01582 842807
PCC OFFICERS:	Treasurer: Allan Webster	843157
	Secretary: Barbara Sheard	843591
SAFEGUARDING OFFICER:	Heather Tisbury	01582 842807
PARISH ADMINISTRATOR:	Helene Hockings on a_dmin-church@outlook.com or 01442 842493	
SUNDAY SERVICES:	9.00am Eucharist Service or Café Church (2 nd Sunday)	
	6.00pm Evensong at Nettleden on the 1 st and 3 rd Sundays of the month	
	5 th Sunday in the month – Joint Eucharist at 9.00am at Nettleden Church	

Please do check the website for up-to-date details

THOMAS FIELD HALL:	email: tfh.bookings@littlegaddesdenchurch.org.uk	
WEEKDAY SERVICE:	Thursday 10am Said Eucharist	
BELL RINGING:	Sunday 8.30am Practice: Tuesday 8.00pm	
	Tower Captain – Virginia Westmacott	LG 842428
CHOIR PRACTICE:	Friday 7.00pm – John Leonhardt	LG 843550
LITTLE GADDESSEN	We welcome all children aged 4 – 11. Contact the Head Teacher,	
C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL:	for more information on 01442 842464 or admin@littlegaddesden.herts.sch.uk	
PARISH NEWS EDITORS:	Helene Hockings, Nick Murray, Mike Walsham. See inside back page for contact details.	
PITSTOP COFFEE CLUB:	Gayle Storey	01582 662132
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	

Vol 46 No.03

Dear Friends,

Following John Leonhardt's enthusiastic recommendation in last month's Parish News magazine, I went to visit London's oldest church, St Bartholomew the Great in Smithfield, near the Barbican. I had another reason; one of its last priors before the Reformation was William Bolton. I wondered if he was an ancestor? He wasn't, not least because he was a celibate monk!

As I came out, I saw some books for sale and bought one, 'The Burning Time – the story of the Smithfield Martyrs' by Virginia Rounding. Five hundred years ago this is how we settled disputes between fellow Christians. We burned them.

The first martyrs were Catholics, who cleaved to Rome in defiance of Henry VIII's break with the papacy. But with the accession of Henry's Catholic daughter Mary – soon nicknamed 'Bloody Mary' – the charge of heresy was instead levelled against staunch Protestants, with the same fiery outcome.

On one side of Smithfield is St Bart's Hospital, which carries on from the monastery which founded the wonderful Christian tradition of tending to the sick, even risking one's life in doing so. And there in the middle of the square, opposite the entrance to a church dedicated to a saint who was one of twelve disciples of the 'Prince of Peace', is a plaque that marks the pyres.

At the front of her book, Virginia Rounding quotes something written in the aftermath of the burnings in 1554 by John Christopherson, Bishop of Winchester:

".. for albeit that many other matters make one to hate another, yet nothing is there that breedeth so deadly hatred, as diversity of minds, touching religion".

I thought of that when listening to some of the discussion in synod over the vexed question of whether gay couples could be married in church. In the end synod decided no, but did vote to allow blessings for same sex couples by 251 to 181 with 10 abstentions.

The atmosphere was heated and emotional. All Souls, Langham Place, a leading Evangelical Church, had paused payments to the diocese of London.

Pro-gay marriage advocates accused the Church of abusive behaviour. There were references to paedophilia, as if it was exclusively a same sex crime. As Quentin Letts observed in The Times, "Synod meetings, like circular firing squads, are held in the round". The usually astringent Mr Letts, a churchgoer himself, concluded, "A soggy Synod compromise on gay marriage, but I left feeling proud".

The Archbishop of Canterbury, fully aware of the dangers of being run down from both directions, stood defiantly in the middle of the road. He was scorned for doing so by zealots on either side and some MPs called for the disestablishment of the church. I thought he was brave to stand firm. He is determined to hold the Church of England and the Anglican Communion together, arguing that there are so many issues on which Christians throughout the world must work side by side to combat: climate change, poverty, racism and slavery for example. As a result, and in an effort to maintain unity, Justin Welby will not himself carry out blessings of same sex couples, although the Archbishop of York will do so.

Both sides in this argument have deeply held and principled positions that should be respected.

For Evangelicals, who believe in the literal truth of the Bible, it is clear, scripture says marriage is between men and women only. Those advocating gay marriage argue that Jesus never spoke on this issue, that we are all, gay or straight, created in God's image, and that the Christian message is all about love and faithfulness, not about with whom one cohabits.

The Roman Catholic Church has also moved on this issue. Although, of course, opposed to gay marriage, Pope Francis has said clearly that homosexuality is not a sin and has expressed contrition, as has Justin Welby, for the suffering gay Christians have undergone at the hands of the church. And gay Christians have suffered, not least in their mental health.

Whatever one's position on the issue of blessings and gay marriage, we should all be able to agree that we must make our church as welcoming as possible to all God's creatures, gay or straight or anything else.

At the end of her book on the Smithfield Martyrs, Virginia Rounding writes this.

“It’s the defining, the attempt to trap the absolute in language, in doctrinal formulations, that has given us so much trouble – that has paved the way for hatreds and made the very concept of heresy possible. Accepting a degree of ignorance and of incomprehension on all our parts, with no one laying claim to absolute truth, makes heresy evaporate. Where there is no orthodoxy there can, by definition, be no heresy”.

ROGER BOLTON

My thanks to Roger for the Parish Letter this month.

I am yours in Christ,

John

Herts and Beds Historic Churches Trust Sponsored Bike & Hike – A Big Thank You!

I am pleased to report that Little Gaddesden Church raised £729.20 for the Beds and Herts Historic Churches Trust 2022! This a fantastic achievement and considerably higher than last year! 50% of this money will return to Little Gaddesden Church, the money being earmarked for use in the upkeep of our own beautiful, historic church. The three participants were Barbara Sheard (cycling), John Leonhardt (hiking) and myself (cycling), and between us we visited over 100 churches. As always, a huge thank you to the participants, the helpers who volunteered their time to welcome cyclists and hikers, and our very generous sponsors. I hope this year in September we will have more bikers and hikers to participate in this very enjoyable event!

Peter Leonhardt

SAINT OLAVE

Anyone coming across a church dedicated to St Olave might think this was a female saint, especially if they remember that Robert Baden-Powell's wife was Olave. They were Chief Scout and Chief Guide in their day. Saint Olave, however, was King of Norway.

In the September 23rd issue of Church Times was the startling headline ***Saint who destroyed London Bridge***. This was a review of a new book about St Olave: "The Viking Saint: Olaf II of Norway" by John Carr. St Olave's, Hart Street, was one of the City churches I visited in September 2019. Looking back at my account of those visits (Parish News November 2019) I find that St Olave's was my briefest, with nothing to say about the saint himself, except that he appeared in a stained glass window next to Saint George.

Olaf II was King of Norway from 1016 to 1029 and is the Patron Saint of that country - Olaf, Olav, Olave or Ola, spell him how you wish, or even Tola by shifting the T from saint Ola, hence Tooley Street (see below). The most recent Olav to be King of Norway was King Olav V, who reigned from 1967 to 1991. He was portrayed as the Crown Prince Olav in the recent television drama "Atlantic Crossing" about the Norwegian Royal Family during the second world war, along with his father King Haakon VII and his little son, the future King Harald V.

Why, then, did St Olave destroy London Bridge? You have to go back to **1014**, the Battle of London Bridge, after he became a Christian but before he became king. He was fighting on the same side as King Ethelred of England against the Danes led by Cnut (Canute). The Danes had advanced on to London Bridge (a wooden structure) but Olave was able, with cables, to pull the supporting piles from under the bridge, so it collapsed. (The exact details are not revealed in the short extract I have read.)

Olave was of Norwegian noble birth but I am not sure whether he had royal descent. He had been a piratical pagan seafarer and warrior until he was suddenly converted to Christianity and was baptised in Rouen Cathedral, Normandy. He continued to be a skillful fighter, but now he fought in defence of Christianity, and defeated rivals for the throne of Norway. As king he set about converting his mostly pagan subjects to Christianity, by persuasion if possible, but otherwise by force of law. He was respected as a just king and brought about popular reforms.

He was fighting against Cnut again in 1029. By then Cnut had become king of England as well as Denmark. Olave was killed in the battle of Stiklestad in 1030 and Cnut added Norway to his kingdoms. Olave quickly became recognised as a

martyr and saint. Churches were dedicated to him in Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Shetland, Orkney, the Hebrides, Dublin and down the east side of England including York. There used to be four in London but St Olave's, Hart Street, is the only one still standing. It is a short distance north-west of the Tower of London. The other three were in Silver Street (now lost in the buildings between London Wall and Oat Lane near Aldersgate), Bermondsey and Tooley Street, Southwark at the south end of London Bridge.

As I mentioned in my earlier article, St Olave's, Hart Street used to be the church of the Navy Office with its own pews and entrance in Samuel Pepys' time. Pepys and his wife Elizabeth are buried there. This is still an active church and my last information included provision of certain weekday services and lunchtime music recitals.

John Leonhardt

Save the Date:

W I Coronation Tea Party

Saturday 29th April in the Village Hall

3.00 – 5.00pm

Entry £10.00 to include a cream tea, sandwiches, cake and tea.

Proceeds to local charities, including DENS.

More details in the April edition of the Parish News

WHEN I GET OLD

When I get old and liable for some post prandial slumber,
I'll try to remember that, after all, age is just a number,
I might be dancing to 'Old girls just wanna have fun'
And 'Born to toddle' if not 'To run'
I won't wear purple, drains the colour from my face,
Unless it's chiffon as I drift dreamingly, along with 'Amazing Grace'
And other Hippy anthems, all those afternoon delights,
But I'll likely spoil the vision with Norah Batty tights,
But I'll have some with glitter, in shocking pink or gold,
Not forgetting a woolly spangled vest, for keeping out the cold.
I won't bother with stuff on Spotify, in case The Birdy Song comes back,
I'm sure with a glass or two of G&T I won't have lost the knack,
I'll stand up straight, hold my tummy in, go back to Pilates classes
And discover the secret of my eternal youth, just by leaving off my glasses!
Josie Jeffrey, 84 ¼

WILLIAM COWPER 1731-1800

It is hard not to shed a tear when reading of the life of Berkhamsted's most famous poet, William Cowper, yet he gave so much pleasure to so many with poems such as 'The Diverting History of John Gilpin', a comic ballad written in 1782, all 65 verses of which were read in schools in the 1960s..

I loved one verse in particular-

“Said John, it is my wedding day,
And all the world would stare,
If wife should dine at Edmonton
And I should dine at Ware”.

Cowper was one of the most popular poets of his time, and some claim he changed the direction of 18th Century nature poetry by writing of everyday life and scenes of the English countryside. In many ways he was one of the forerunners of Romantic poetry. Samuel Taylor Coleridge called him “the best modern poet”.

After moving to the village of Olney in the very north of Buckinghamshire, he met the curate John Newton, and they wrote the series of 'Olney Hymns". Newton's most famous contribution was "Amazing Grace", and among Cowper's outstanding hymns was "Light Shining out of Darkness" which gave us the phrase "God moves in a mysterious way / His wonders to perform".

But there was much darkness in Cowper's life.

He lost his mother when he was very young (there is a memorial to her in St Peter's Berkhamsted), and he was sent to school in Markyate, where he was utterly miserable, and later had a series of nervous breakdowns. He ended up in an asylum in St Albans.

Cowper found refuge in a 'fervent evangelical christianity", but, after a dream in 1773, believed he was doomed to eternal damnation. He recovered, but frequently lapsed into deep depression.

He was blessed with kind friends, and found solace in writing wonderful poems about nature, and became a firm supporter of the anti-slavery movement. He wrote a poem called "The Negro's Complaint" which rapidly became very famous and was often quoted by Martin Luther King during his civil rights campaigns. In other poems he attacked the idea that slavery was economically viable

Cowper has left us some wonderful hymns and memorable lines.

Here are some familiar quotations:

"God moves in a mysterious way,
His wonders to perform;
He plants his footsteps in the sea
And rides upon the storm".

"Oh, for a closer walk with God,
A calm and heav'nly frame;
A light to shine upon the road
That leads me to the Lamb!"

"God made the country, and man made the town".

"Variety's the very spice of life,
That gives it all its flavour".

"I am monarch of all I survey".

"There is a pleasure in poetic pains
Which only poets know".

Cowper died, and is buried in East Dereham, Norfolk, but his spirit suffuses Olney; and in St Peter's in Berkhamsted, there are two stained glass windows in his memory and another in St George's Chapel, Westminster Abbey.

Out of his suffering, William Cowper made great art and gained a sympathy for his fellow man which transcended the racial prejudice of his time.

He prayed for "a closer walk with God".
He surely deserved it.

ROGER BOLTON



Berkhamsted Walk

Raising funds for The Children's Society

Sunday 30th April 2023



Choose the walk that suits you
for a great day out in the beautiful
Chiltern countryside around Berkhamsted

6, 12 and 18 mile walk options



#berkhamstedwalk

For details and to register online:

www.berkhamstedwalk.com

Berkhamsted Walk

Sunday 30th April 2023

Raising funds for The Children's Society

It is a painful fact that many children and young people in Britain today are still suffering extreme hardship, abuse and neglect. Help us to make a difference to the lives of these vulnerable young people. As little as £5 could pay for a hot meal for a child who has not eaten all day, or pay for a vulnerable young person to travel to a counselling session, giving them a safe place to talk.

Choose the walk that suits you and make the most of the springtime countryside:

The Fun Walk: 6 miles for all ages

The Bluebell Walk: 12 miles for beauty and fresh air

The Challenge Walk: 18 miles for the really hardy

All walks start from Kitchener's Field, Castle Hill, Berkhamsted, HP4 1HE, next to the Cricket Club. Walkers can start any time from 9.30am - 2pm.

Berkhamsted Walk – choose your distance and get involved

Easy to participate

- Independent walking at your own pace
- Different routes every year
- Regular checkpoints
- Clear walk signposting along the whole route
- Refreshments available at the checkpoints
- Get sponsored or make a donation
- Tea and cake provided at Kitchener's Field for returning walkers

Get involved

It's easy to participate in the walk – just visit www.berkhamstedwalk.com and register online. You can donate in advance of the walk by visiting our JustGiving page at www.justgiving.com/fundraising/berkhamsted-walk (link on our website).

We will have limited ability to take registrations and donations on the day, so online registration is preferable. The routes will be emailed to all participants who sign up and donate in advance.

For details and to register online: www.berkhamstedwalk.com

SERVICE CHANGES

As you will now know, the morning service time at Little Gaddesden has reverted to 9.00am.

However, there is a further change to the service pattern: there will now no longer be an Evening Prayer service on the first Sunday of the month at 6.00pm in Little Gaddesden. Instead, this service will be amalgamated into Sung Evensong **in Nettleden** at 6.00pm. There will therefore be Evensongs in Nettleden on the first and third Sundays of the month.

There will still be occasional special evening services in Little Gaddesden (including Iona type services) and these will be widely advertised at the time.

From the Registers:

28th January

Holy Matrimony

Thomas Slade and
Amber Cadogan

David Nowell-Withers

As many of you will now be aware, our fellow editor, David Nowell-Withers, sadly died in mid-February whilst on holiday.

He had been a great supporter and proponent of the Parish magazine for many years and his knowledge and commitment to the Parish News will be sorely missed. His proof-reading was exemplary. The remaining Editors will try not to let his standards slip but forgive us if they do occasionally. David joined the editorial team in December 2009 and his enthusiasm and vitality have been much appreciated over the years and this continued right up until the end. His faith was absolute - God bless you David and thank you. All our thoughts and prayers are with Margaret and the family.

The Editors

THE MONTH OF LIONS AND LAMBS?

It's a funny old month, March. As we nearly used to say, "It doesn't know its big toe from its elbow". The good news is that the passing of January and February means we can give up on giving up things. (Just as I had decided on giving up skydiving, luckily I wasn't sponsored.)

The short but severe freezing spell during December has left a cruel legacy. I was unable to get to the allotment in time to fleece my rocket and herbs which have been thriving in recent milder winters and they disappeared. Even the usually tough cavolo nero were annihilated, the dark green leaves bleached white and hanging like rags on the stems. I had hair-netted them to keep the pigeons off and normally expect them to be bombproof. The beetroot didn't survive the severe freezing either. Luckily, there was Waitrose as a back-up.

As the days began to lengthen and the birds upped their singing game, I realised that there were no wrens. They tend to sing throughout winter like the robins. I normally hear at least two on my way to the shop in the morning, but it has been silent since the icy snap. They are not birds that you see much of, but they are there and apparently, due to the milder winters, have thrived. Wrens help each other to survive the cold nights as they pile into nest boxes and holes in trees, keeping each other warm. As many as 32 have been counted entering a great tit nest box but the small insects and spiders that they feed on would not be there, so they have starved to death - it's so cruel. If we get another snap like that it will be disastrous for everything.

The birds that do the best are those we feed and the fats are particularly helpful, like fat balls and those half coconut shells with fat in. I tried making one myself with lard. Not a great success as it was too soft. I never saw any bees until mid February, then one small wild bee and a whopping great bumble bee on my winter flowering jasmine and honeysuckle. Always good shrubs to have over winter, along with Christmas box, hamamelis and daphne odorata. The bee attracting scents are lovely and brighten up your nose a treat after all the running it did over the winter. Well, mine anyway, along with what I like to call my post-nasal depression.

Here's something to cheer us up: snowdrops. Catch them quickly as they are about to go over. A favourite walk for me is along the wooded area at the top of Golden Valley, not far from Hudnall Lane. A good way of approaching is via the valley, walking up to the bridge which frames part of the display. Another snowdrop opportunity is the paddock behind Woodyard which is usually followed in April by hordes of pale narcissi. So, here's hoping that March will be kind and no beastly easterlies and nasty northerlies to freeze the countryside. What's needed is less lion and lots more lamb.

Josie Jeffrey

CHILDREN'S PAGE

WHAT A WASTE !

You've got something really valuable, really important to you, but you can only use it once. So when can you use it best? What a difficult decision to make.

Mary had some really special perfume. What would she do with it? Here's her story.

Six days before the Passover, Jesus went to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, the man he had raised from his grave. They prepared a dinner for him there, which Martha helped to serve. Lazarus was one of those sitting at the table with Jesus.

Then Mary took half a litre of a very expensive perfume made of pure nard, poured it on Jesus' feet and wiped them with her hair. The sweet smell of the perfume filled the whole house.

One of Jesus' disciples, Judas Iscariot—the one who was going to betray him—said, "Why wasn't this perfume sold for three hundred silver coins and the money given to the poor?"

But Jesus said, "Leave her alone! Let her keep what she has for the day of my burial. The poor people you will always have with you, but you will not always have me."



Colour in the picture of Mary pouring the perfume on Jesus' feet.

This story is told in St. John's gospel, chapter 12, verses 1—8

WORDSEARCH

Find the words underlined in the story.

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

What is the first of the 10 **COMMANDMENTS**?

EVOL EHT DROL RUOY DOG HTIW
LLA RUOY TRAEH

Ethics Forum

Do Animals have Rights?

Tuesday 21st March 2023 at 8.00pm.

The meeting will explore issues such as dominion, suffering and rights, and whether animals have souls.

We will welcome Dr Clair Linzey, a theologian, ethicist and writer, who is Deputy Director of the Oxford Centre for Animal Ethics.

Roger Bolton will facilitate the discussion.

Refreshments will be served from 7.30pm.

For more information, please contact Anthony Archer on
anthony.archer@bridgewaterassociates.co.uk

PRAYER PAGE

Prayer for the Turkey and Syria Earthquake Appeal

God of time and space, we cry to you for your children - our neighbours -
in southern Turkey and northern Syria,
following the earthquake that has devastated hundreds of lives.
Only they and you know what it is like to experience such trauma
in the middle of the night.

We give thanks for the aid that is already being given and for the promises
of help that have been made by many nations.

Comfort, we pray,
those who are trapped in collapsed buildings;
those who have lost loved ones;
those who wait for news and
those digging through rubble to save others.

Grant the gift of hope so that those caught between life and death know
that you are with them and that others are ready to support them as they
seek a future that overshadows the experiences of today.

We ask this in the Name of Jesus, who endured so much for love of them.

Amen

CHURCH SERVICES – MARCH

I Sunday 5th March – Lent 2		
9.00am	Parish Communion	Little Gaddesden
11.00am	Parish Communion	Great Gaddesden
6.00pm	Evensong	Nettleden
II Sunday 12th March – Lent 3		
9.00am	Morning Prayer	Nettleden
9.00am	Café Church	Little Gaddesden
11.00am	Café Church	Great Gaddesden
III Sunday 19th March – Mothering Sunday		
9.00am	Family Service	Little Gaddesden
11.00am	Family Service	Great Gaddesden
6.00pm	Evensong	Nettleden
IV Sunday 26th March – Lent 5 / Passiontide begins		
9.00am	Morning Prayer	Nettleden
9.00am	Parish Communion	Little Gaddesden
11.00am	Parish Communion	Great Gaddesden
I Sunday 2nd April – Palm Sunday Holy Week		
9.00am	Procession from village hall to Church for Family Service	Little Gaddesden
11.00am	Family Communion with blessing of the palms	Great Gaddesden
6.00pm	Evensong	Nettleden

**Please note service changes.
Evensong will now take place on the
1st and 3rd Sundays of the month at Nettleden.**

Mid-Week Services		
Tuesdays	9.00am Holy Communion	Great Gaddesden
Thursdays	10.00am Holy Communion	Little Gaddesden

Parish News Editors:

Helene Hockings, Nick Murray, Mike Walsham
editor-pn@littlegaddesdenchurch.org.uk
Deadline Date: Friday 17th March