

Parish News

St Peter and St Paul, Little Gaddesden

£1.00

April 2023



The Lord is risen indeed

St Peter and St Paul, Little Gaddesden HP4 1NZ

Berkhamsted Team

Revd John Russell, Team Rector

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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:	Terri Adams, Kaim End	842746
	David Scriven, Gaddesden House	843783
READERS:	Anthony Archer	842397
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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 one of our three Churches	

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	
C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL:	Teacher 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 9am on Thursday	

Vol 46 No.04

Dear Friends,

Each week as part of our worship, a set prayer known as The Collect is used. It's supposed to reflect the day, the season, or a particular festival and it struck me recently that most weeks we just gloss over it. The Lectionary gives us readings for each day of the year and usually two Collects from which to choose.

The rubric (*the instruction as to how the service should be conducted*), advises us to take a moment's pause before the actual prayer is recited. To me, it often seems like it's been written by a committee: some are the old Book of Common Prayer, prayers rehashed in modern language, others are more modern. Here is the Collect for the 2nd Sunday of Lent:

*Almighty God,
you show to those who are in error the light of your truth,
that they may return to the way of righteousness:
grant to all those who are admitted into the fellowship of Christ's religion,
that they may reject those things that are contrary to their profession,
and follow all such things as are agreeable to the same...*

If we divide it up...

you show to those who are in error, the light of your truth, that they may return to the way of righteousness:

What does that mean? St Paul often uses the word 'righteous' to describe Abraham because for many Jews, Abraham was a hero. He was the man to whom God had revealed himself and who through those encounters he stopped worshipping idols and began to follow the one true God. So, Abraham was the perfect example of the righteous person and demonstrated his faith by always putting his trust in God.

'And Abraham believed the Lord; and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness' (Genesis 15.6).

St Paul bases much on his teaching on the example of Abraham, saying that righteousness doesn't come from the Law of Moses; in other words, we're not made righteous by following a set of rules and regulations, but by faith in God. It was Moses of course, who received The Law on Mount Sinai, but Abraham being before Moses and therefore before the Law, was righteous not because there was a Law to follow, but because he trusted in God.

Abraham is commended for his faith, but, as we know from Genesis, his faith was very much a practical matter, he's even prepared to sacrifice his son Isaac. (*Genesis 22: 1-19*). If we were to emulate Abraham, our faith would involve our entire being: our minds, our bodies, our thoughts and our actions and we would find ourselves very much more aware of the gifts and blessings God offers. So, Abraham's faith governed his actions – out of obedience, not to gain favour with God so much as to please God, hence he was righteous.

The Collect goes on to say...

grant to all those who are admitted into the fellowship of Christ's religion, that they may reject those things that are contrary to their profession, and follow all such things as are agreeable to the same.

Here we are talking about the doctrine of the Christian church.

It's not unreasonable to ask how we come to believe what we believe, it hasn't just happened and it's right to question whether the doctrine, or teaching of the church is unchangeable, or indeed unchallengeable. You'll notice from the Collect that we can be in error, so what has brought us to our understanding of God in the 21st Century?

We rely, of course, on scripture and its interpretation, but also on history, tradition, and experience. In the light of history, we see the outworking of faith has had to change over the succeeding centuries. So whilst we can rightly say that we worship a God who is unchanging, the interpretation of his will has to be done in the light of what is happening in the world, as well as what has happened in the past.

In St John's Gospel, there is an encounter (3: 1-17) between Jesus and Nicodemus, one of the religious leaders of the time who comes to him in the dead of night. Nicodemus has a bit of a problem, he sees Jesus as threatening his way of life and all he upholds as a good Jew and like St Paul, I suspect, he would have said that Abraham was one of his heroes, one whom he would want to emulate. Nicodemus himself, might well have been considered a so-called 'righteous man' by those in his religious circles, but he struggles with a dilemma; he has grown up with the traditions of the Jewish faith and now he has seen and heard Jesus' teaching, he doesn't know what to think.

Nicodemus says to him, 'How can these things be?'

Jesus answered him, 'Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

¹¹ 'Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹² If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things?

We can see the struggle he's having. He thought he knew what he believed from what he's read and learnt about God, through Holy Scripture and the Jewish Law, but now Jesus is challenging all of that. If you think about it, these are the same dilemmas we struggle with today. In our lifetime, the church has grappled with marrying divorcees, ordaining women to the priesthood and then the consecration of women bishops; and now it's the issue of the marriage or blessing of same sex relationships. What do we do? We ignore society at our peril if the church is going to have any relevance...

What we do have to do is to pray and listen to the promptings of God through his Holy Spirit. This Collect reminds us that God does show us when we are in error and the community of baptised Christians, that the church is given authority to discern God's will. The account of Jesus' meeting with Nicodemus is a dense and complex text, it's rich in paradox, irony and word play, similar to many other incidents in St John's Gospel. Nicodemus honestly senses that there is more to Jesus than his colleagues are prepared to accept and he desperately wants to understand more, but is hampered by tradition and literalistic ways of thinking. Jesus wants Nicodemus to open his mind, expanding and deepening his understanding; he talks about the Holy Spirit... *'The wind blows where it chooses'*... and it is to those promptings and signs for which we should search.

Nobody said that following Jesus Christ or trying to discern the will of God was going to be easy and we will frequently get it wrong, but surely like Abraham, we want to follow the way of righteousness. We have a lot in common with Nicodemus, pulled in conflicting ways; on the one hand, towards the supposed security of what is known and familiar, and on the other, towards the exhilarating, life-enhancing 'risk' of following the unpredictable dance of the Spirit.

There is much to ponder in this Collect.

*Almighty God,
you show to those who are in error the light of your truth,
that they may return to the way of righteousness:
grant to all those who are admitted into the fellowship of Christ's religion,
that they may reject those things that are contrary to their profession,
and follow all such things as are agreeable to the same;
through our Lord Jesus Christ,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.*

With the most important season of the Christian calendar fast approaching, with many more collects to pray and to ponder, I wish you all a happy and blessed Easter.

I am yours in Christ, John.

GETTING OLDER

I'll recall the days, when feeling more daring and finding our voice,
We'd request inappropriate records on Mum's 'Housewives Choice'
Like the outrageous Chuck Berry for our dear old deaf Gran,
Tell fibs like, "She's a great rock n roller, a really fab fan."

So It's Classic FM now, something lively; not dull, dumb or phoney,
Requested for my imaginary great nephew, Tony Mascarpone,
Not like Bruch's Violin Concerto, that's just much too cheesy,
Something more exciting, but melodic, that makes listening easy.

That I (sorry, he) will stomp to, perhaps a Spanish Miller's Dance,
Or something emotional from Elgar, finer feelings to enhance,
And when I'm old, I won't do that thing when I get up or sit,
Breathe out a grunt or a sigh, as if I really am unfit.

As if it's a faff to move up or down with ease from any chair,
(But for an elderly friend, I'll put it down to basic wear and tear,)
I'll Choose Father Ted or Patsy Stone to be my mentor or my guide,
And remember that I should always try to see the funny side.

Josie Jeffrey, 84 & a bit.

Christian Aid

This year Christian Aid Week will be from 14th - 20th May. We will be supporting the charity through collections in church, an online village fundraising page and, on Saturday 20th May, a Strawberry Cream Tea from 3pm-5pm in the Thomas Field Hall. Please save the date!

Thank you to everyone who has donated to the DEC Turkey-Syria Earthquake Appeal through the Christian Aid collection buckets in church and online. Christian Aid has, despite the challenges, been working with local partners involved in locally-led relief efforts in Northwest Syria. Immediate priorities have been: winterization kits including blankets, mattresses, food parcels and heating material, preparing shelters to help people find some safety indoors from the weather, delivering food and clean water, mental health support and cash for local communities. For further donations and more details of the charity's response to the emergency see: <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/emergencies/dec-turkey-syria-earthquake-appeal>.'

Annabelle Grassini



EASTER LILIES

Every year at Easter the Church is decorated with lilies in memory of a loved one. If you would like to participate, please let me know on 842780 or email me on anneisherwood@btinternet.com as the lilies have to be ordered in good time for Easter. The cost is £3 per lily. If possible, we hope this can be paid directly into our Bank Account. Details are:

Account Name:	PCC of Little Gaddesden Parish
Account Number:	00296015
Sort Code:	30 94 08
Reference:	Easter Lilies + your surname

If direct payment is not possible, please give cash or a cheque (payable to PCC of Little Gaddesden Parish) to me or Virginia Westmacott. The book for your dedication will be in the Church on the cross aisle. Thank you.

Anne Isherwood

THE OLNEY HYMNS

Olney is in the very north of Buckinghamshire and, as I wrote in last month's magazine, it was where the poet William Cowper, who had been born in Berkhamsted, sought refuge after a nervous breakdown. Cowper was prone to bouts of depression, fearing he was damned.

He became a lay helper at the church in Olney where he met its extraordinary Vicar, John Newton. Both men passionately opposed slavery, but Newton knew only too well that in his early life at sea he had made a living out of it.

Newton had served as a mate and then a captain of a number of slave ships, hoping, as a Christian, to restrain the worst excesses of the slave trade, "promoting the life of God in the soul" of both his crew and his African cargo. Later, influenced by both the Wesleys and George Whitfield, he adopted mild Calvinist views and became increasingly disgusted with the slave trade and his role in it. He said it was "a business at which my heart now shudders".

In Olney in 1769, Newton began a Thursday evening prayer service. For almost every week's service, he wrote a hymn to be sung to a familiar tune. Newton challenged Cowper also to write hymns for these meetings, which he did until falling seriously ill again in 1773.

Newton later combined 280 of his own hymns with 68 of Cowper's in what was to become the popular 'Olney hymns'.

Among the most well-known are: "Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken", "How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds", "O for a closer Walk With God", "There Is a Fountain Filled with Blood", and, of course, Newton's "Amazing Grace", probably the most famous hymn in history.

*"Amazing grace, how sweet the sound,
That saved a wretch like me.
I once was lost, but now am found,
Was blind but now I see".*

Newton wrote those powerful words in 1772, but it was not for another 60 years that the text was wedded to the tune to which it is sung today, "New Britain" by William Walker, an American Baptist.

It is sad to think that Newton never heard his wonderful words fitted to such a memorable tune. Combined they have inspired generations, including the Civil Rights movement in the United States.

As sung by Aretha Franklin, "Amazing Grace", is literally, amazing.

ROGER BOLTON

Deanery Synod update

Each deanery in the diocese has its own Deanery Synod, convened by the Rural Dean. It consists of all clergy licensed to a benefice within the deanery and elected lay members. It is intended to act as an intermediary between the PCCs in the deanery and the Diocesan Synod. The Diocesan Synod consists of the bishops and elected laity and clergy. The Diocesan Synod considers matters sent to it from the General Synod and Deanery Synods, formulates diocesan policy on a wide range of issues, advises the bishop as appropriate and votes on finance and administration matters.

Our Deanery Synod meets several times a year. The lay members for Little Gaddesden are currently Roger Bolton, Annabelle Grassini and Sally Green.

The Deanery Synod met most recently in the Thomas Field Hall on 23rd February, 2023. Your lay representatives at the meeting were Annabelle Grassini and Roger Bolton.

The first part of the meeting consisted of a talk about the Herts and Beds Historic Churches Trust and the funds it makes available to help with church building and repairs.

The second part was a presentation on racial justice and a report on the workings of the Diocesan Racial Justice Action Group. The Group is implementing an action plan to raise awareness of racial justice issues and ensure that those involved in clergy and diocesan appointments have appropriate training. It is working on enhancing UK minority ethnic participation at all levels. We will be exploring this topic with the PCC in the coming months.

Your representatives then raised the same sex blessings issue which is convulsing the church. It was agreed that a further meeting of the Deanery Synod would be organised to discuss this topic.

It was also agreed that the role of the Deanery Synod and the way in which it operates would be discussed in detail at the next meeting. We believe it should be a way of representing the concerns of the parishes to the diocese and a means for the leaders of the diocese to communicate their policies and concerns to the laity.

AG
RB

SINGALONGA BLACKBIRD

March turned out to be more lion than lamb, in fact, more like polar bear. Things can only get better! About halfway through March I heard my first blackbird. A cheerful promise of Spring. Two song thrushes had been serenading for some weeks throughout winter, a most engaging little chap who makes it up as he goes along, trying out different notes which he repeats from 2 to 6 times - a tremendous variety which shows off his skills and desirability, certainly lighting up those dark winter days. Sadly, they are now endangered, being bullied from habitat by the larger, bossier blackbirds who are competing for the same food, which is often contaminated with slug and snail pellets. Thrushes are very partial to a snail and use the same stone to smash the shells. If you hear a tapping sound, that's probably what it is (if not a teenager on their 'phone). Like all the other song birds, loss of habitat (hedges and woodland shrubbery) has had a bad impact. Treasure those garden hedges, they do make a difference and due to the extreme local culling of deer, the young tree growth in the woods has had a chance to form viable shrubs without the bark being stripped, recreating some nesting habitat. Predation is a growing problem with the burgeoning corvid populations (thanks, Chris Packham)) added to carnivore mammals including cats which should be kept in at night, at least.

Talking of cats, I hear that the government is intending to make micro chipping mandatory which will please responsible cat owners as they will automatically be checked and re-united with owners when lost. Does anyone remember Jet, the Waitrose meeter and greeter cat who used to commute in daily from Northchurch and try to smuggle himself inside the shop? He didn't want anything, just to confirm his place as an indoor security guard. His owner spent so much time collecting him that they moved to a shop-free area. He tried jumping in my trolley once and flattening himself down in the hopes of not being seen. He was adorable and I miss him.

Back to blackbirds: they do come across as really stupid, quite neurotic about sounding their alarm calls and clucking like a demented hen when they are not chasing each other, which they seem to be doing for most of the day (the ladies tend to keep themselves more to themselves). They waste so much energy and leave themselves little time to eat that I wonder what motivates them: Are they gay? Is it all about a blackbird bromance?

Or are they fighting for territory and a mate to build a nest with? If so, I would have thought that they would be too exhausted to engage in some serious wooing. Still, so long as they leave some time for serenading, all will be well.

Robins continue to sing throughout winter, a gentle, introspective sounding song, but what he's really saying is more like, "Push off, Punk and get outta my shrub!". He's all over Twitter. The dunnocks have begun singing, small bird, big voice and very pretty. Sadly, the tiny wren with the mighty voice was badly hit by the arctic spell during December and many were lost, along with some other of the smallest birds. But the love-rat wren is a great survivor and will be making many desirable des res nests. This Warren Beatty of birds seduces the ladies with his mighty song, a (very) mini Pavarotti on speed, so hopefully this useful and attractive little bird will soon recover its population. Lots to look forward to!

Josie Jeffrey

Berkhamsted Walk
Raising funds for The Children's Society

Sunday 30th April 2023

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-2.00pm

There will be 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 further details, see the March Parish News or visit www.berkhamstedwalk.com

Annual Revision of the Electoral Roll

There was a complete revision of the church electoral roll in 2019, but we still need to check that the roll is up to date in time for our Annual Parochial Church Meeting on 14th May 2023.

We will be leaving a copy of the current roll on display in the church from Sunday 16th April to Monday 24th April and registration forms for new members will also be available in the church on the cross aisle. If you are already on the list, please take a moment to check that your details are correct. If you have changed your address since the last revision took place in April 2022 please let me know so I can update our records.

If you are not already listed and would like to join the roll, please consider the following requirements:

You should be baptised, aged 16 years or over and:

1. be a member of the Church of England, or of a church in communion with it and
 - (a) you should live in the parish
 - or
 - (b) if you live outside the parish you should be a regular member of the congregation at St Peter and St Paul
 - or
2. be a member in good standing of a church which is not in communion with the Church of England but subscribes to the doctrine of the Holy Trinity, also a member of the Church of England and a regular member of the congregation at St Peter and St Paul.

What is the significance of the Electoral Roll?

Members of the church are encouraged to play an active part in the life of the church. They can vote in elections at the Meeting of Parishioners and the Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

As ever, enrolment brings both rights and responsibilities. Members are expected to contribute to the stewardship of the church and its activities in the locality.

The size of the roll determines other aspects such as the number of representatives at Deanery Synod. It also determines our financial share (contribution to costs at the Diocesan level). Essentially, the larger the roll, the more we pay. Nevertheless we welcome all on the roll as a record of our active and contributing parishioners who are involved with the church and its mission.

The deadline for revisions is Monday 24th April. If you would like to discuss this further please talk to John Russell, our churchwardens Terri Adams and David Scriven, or to me, the Electoral Roll Officer.

Annabelle Grassini, Electoral Roll Officer
electoral.roll@littlegaddesdenchurch.org.uk

**Annual Parishioners Meeting
and Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

Sunday 14th May 2023

in the Church

following on from the 9.00am service

All parishioners on the Electoral Roll are very welcome to attend this meeting to find out what has been happening during the last year and to ask questions of the Vicar, the Churchwardens and other members of the PCC.

From the Registers:

6 th March	Funeral	Barbara Fernley
10 th March	Funeral	Michael Hancock
21 st March	Funeral	David Nowell-Withers

THE BLESSING OF SAME SEX UNIONS

The Church of England's press release after the recent General Synod was headlined:

'Prayers for God's Blessing for same-sex couples take a step forward after Synod debate'.

It went on to say that the 'General Synod has welcomed proposals which would enable same sex couples to come to church after a civil marriage or civil partnership to give thanks, dedicate their relationship to God, and receive God's blessing'.

Synod members also voted to "lament and repent" of the Church to welcome LGBTQI+ people and for the harm that LGBTQI+ people have experienced – and continue to experience- in churches. The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, and the Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell, said:

"It has been a long road to get us to this point. For the first time the Church of England will publicly, unreservedly, and joyfully welcome same sex couples in church. The Church continues to have deep differences on these questions which go to the heart of our human identity. As Archbishops, we are committed to respecting the conscience of those for whom this goes too far and to ensure that they have all the reassurances they need, in order to maintain the unity of the Church as this conversation continues".

The Bishop of London, Sarah Mullally, who led the debate and chairs the group which saw the development of the proposals said:

"This is a moment of hope for the Church. I know that what we have proposed as a way forward does not go nearly far enough for many but too far for others..... We have always said we will listen carefully to Synod, so over the next few months, we will reflect on everything which has been said and prepare new pastoral guidance for the Church on matters of sexuality and marriage. We will also refine the texts of Prayers of Love and faith".

What was agreed was in essence an attempted compromise between those who argued for same sex marriage to be recognised and those who believe that would be unbiblical, indeed sinful, and that marriage should be between a man and a woman, full stop.

The vote on the Blessings reveals how divided Synod is on this compromise, let alone same sex marriage.

The figures are :-

Bishops:	36 for, 4 against, 2 abstained
Clergy:	111 for, 85 against, 3 abstained
Laity:	103 for, 92 against, 5 abstained.

For the sake of maintaining unity in the Church and the wider Anglican Communion, Dr Welby said he would not carry out such blessings, although the Archbishop of York would do so.

As is the way with most compromises, no one was very happy with this outcome.

Those who are opposed to such blessings and to same sex marriage, particularly conservative Evangelicals and the majority of the members of the Anglican Communion, were quick to denounce the decision and consider their futures. They believe that the Bible is quite clear on the issue, quoting, for example, Matthew 19: 4-6:

“Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, ‘Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife and the two shall become one flesh’? So, they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let man not separate”.

There are several other verses in the New and Old Testament which restate this view.

For Evangelicals these are God’s words and, if we set them aside, what else would we be prepared to jettison? These dissidents are now discussing whether and how they can remain in communion with those with whom they disagree. All Souls Langham Place, a leading Evangelical church, has suspended its financial contributions to the London diocese. The vicar of St Helen’s Bishopsgate, one of the largest churches in London, has called on the Church of England leadership to ‘submit and surrender to the Scriptures in the same-sex blessings row.’ He said that congregations need to consider their futures in the denomination.

The vicar, William Taylor, said, “Suitable provision is needed for those who voted against the decision. We mustn’t forget that when the vote came in, if you discounted the House of Bishops, who, broadly speaking, voted as a block throughout all the votes in General Synod... If you took the laity and clergy, between 40 and 45% voted against”.

He said that they were now at odds with their bishops.

William Taylor also said that Dr Foley Beach, the chair of GAFCON and North America’s Archbishop and Primate would be helping with his church’s clergy review process.

(GAFCON stands for Global Anglican Future Conference. It says it 'is a global family of authentic Anglicans standing together to retain and restore the Bible to the heart of the Anglican Communion').

In a Lent message, the Chair of the Global South Fellowship, Archbishop Justin Badi, pledged episcopal oversight to 'orthodox Christians in the Church of England and other revisionist provinces'. He repeated an earlier statement that the Church of England's decision to bless same sex couples after civil marriage means they have walked away from historical biblical teachings and the GFSA no longer regards the CoE, the mother church, as the historic first province, nor the Archbishop of Canterbury as the first among equals. He ended his message quoting Ephesians 6:

'put on the whole armour of God so that you will be able to stand against all strategies of the devil'.

This is hardly the language of compromise, to say the least.

Meanwhile those in favour of same sex marriage like the Rev Jayne Ozanne, a lesbian who is also an evangelical, while calling the compromise an 'unholy fudge', have been relatively muted, believing that history is moving in their direction.

They point out that the Old Testament endorsed polygamy, which we no longer accept, and that St Paul stated that the man should (automatically) be the head of the family. Again something that most now find unacceptable. They stress that biology has shown us that sexual identity is not really a matter of choice. And that God made all of us, black, white, gay and straight, in his image.

Others believe that a national church cannot afford to be out of step with the attitudes of the country as a whole, and that the majority of British people accept same sex relationships. It is clear that the church will continue to be divided, and that members of our congregation here in Little Gaddesden also take differing views.

Overall, however, we believe it to be vital to keep the church together. There are many other causes, at least, if not more, important, that Christians should be uniting to pursue: climate change, world poverty, racial and economic justice for example.

In accordance with the decision of Synod, our vicar John Russell, will bless the same sex relationships of those who wish to dedicate their relationships to God. However, if anyone wishes to discuss this further, please let me or John know, and we would be delighted to organise a discussion.

ROGER BOLTON



LITTLE GADDESSEN WI



CORONATION



TEA PARTY



Sat 29th April



Little Gaddesden
Village Hall

3pm to 5pm



(or until we run out)

£10 at door by card or cash

to include tea/coffee

Cream Tea, sandwiches and cake

Craft stall, Cakes and Preserves,

Plants and Tombola



CHILDREN'S PAGE

EASTER !

The most wonderful, exciting and joyful time of our year. Jesus had been killed and yet came back to life again in a way that nobody could have believed. He proved that death was not the end. No-one will be afraid of dying ever again, because we will go on to a different life; Jesus has proved it.

A B C D E F

Which chick is the odd one out ?

AN EASTER QUIZ. Write the answers to the numbered questions in the numbered squares, writing across the grid. Then find the answer to question 10.

1. Both the women who went to the tomb had the same name. What was it? (4)
2. The name of the day after the day on which Jesus died. (7)
3. The name of the disciple who betrayed Jesus with a kiss. (5)
4. Jesus died on Good (6)
5. Joseph of took Jesus' body and laid it in his tomb. (9)
6. The name of the Roman Governor who tried Jesus. (6)
7. The garden where Jesus prayed and was arrested. (10)
8. The name of the murderer who was set free to please the crowds. (8)
9. Jesus was on a cross. (9)
10. The best day ever ! (read vertically the column with the crosses.)

PRAYER PAGE

We pray for our local community
and for all people in their daily life and work.
We pray for the young and the elderly, for families
and all who are alone.

We give thanks for human skill and creativity
and all that reveals your loveliness.

Amen

Lord of all life and power,
who through the mighty resurrection of your Son
overcame the old order of sin and death
to make all things new in him:
grant that we, being dead to sin
and alive to you in Jesus Christ, may reign with him in glory;
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit
be praise and honour, glory and might,
now and in all eternity

Amen

A Prayer based on a sermon of 1628 by John Donne

Bring us, O Lord, at our last awakening
into the house and gate of heaven,
to enter into that gate and dwell in that house
where there shall be no darkness nor dazzling, but one equal light;
no noise nor silence, but one equal music;
no fears nor hopes, but one equal possession;
no ends nor beginnings, but one equal eternity;
in the habitations of thy glory and dominion, world without end.

Amen

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

Parish News Editors:

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Deadline Date: Friday 21st April

CHURCH SERVICES – APRIL

I Sunday 2nd April – Palm Sunday		
9.00am	Procession with Donkey from village hall to Church for Family Service	Little Gaddesden
11.00am	Procession with Dora the Donkey from the Lytch Gate for Family Service	Great Gaddesden
6.00pm	Evensong with blessing of the palms	Nettleden
Tuesday 4th April		
7.30pm	Stations of the Cross	Great Gaddesden
Thursday 6th April – Maundy Thursday		
7.30pm	Sung Eucharist with the stripping of the altars	Little Gaddesden
Friday 7th April – Good Friday		
11.00am	Service of Witness on The Green	Little Gaddesden
2.00pm	Hour before the Cross	Nettleden
II Sunday 9th April – Easter Day		
8.00am	Holy Communion	Nettleden
9.00am	Family Communion	Little Gaddesden
11.00am	Family Communion	Great Gaddesden
III Sunday 16th April – Easter 2		
9.00am	Parish Communion	Little Gaddesden
11.00am	Parish Communion	Great Gaddesden
6.00pm	Evensong	Nettleden
IV Sunday 23rd April – Easter 3		
9.00am	Morning Prayer	Nettleden
9.00am	Parish Communion	Little Gaddesden
11.00am	Parish Communion	Great Gaddesden
V Sunday 30th April – Easter 4		
11.00am	Joint Parish Communion with Bishop Alan	Great Gaddesden
I Sunday 7th May – Easter 5		
9.00am	Special Service marking the Coronation of King Charles III	Little Gaddesden
11.00am	Special Service marking the Coronation of King Charles III	Great Gaddesden
6.00pm	Evensong	Nettleden