

# Parish News

St Peter and St Paul, Little Gaddesden

£1.00

March 2024



The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

## **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.

***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 those noted.

ASSOCIATE PRIEST: Miranda Seldon 07761 165871

CHURCHWARDENS: Terri Adams 842746

Jane Dickson 843220

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: 9am Eucharist Service or Café Church (2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday)

6pm Evensong at Nettleden on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday  
of the month

6pm Occasional Iona or Taizé services

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday – Joint Eucharist 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 842428

CHOIR PRACTICE: Friday 7.00pm – John Leonhardt 843550

LG CoFe 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: Helene Hockings, Nick Murray, Mike Walsham.  
See inside back page for contact details.

PITSTOP CAFÉ: 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 47 No.03

Dear Friends,

As I write, Lent is almost upon us, but by the time you read my letter, we will be well into the most sombre, penitential season in the Christian calendar. The church buildings will be without flowers and the vestments and altar frontals will be purple, The Gloria will not be sung at the Eucharist, nor will we say or sing 'Alleluia' for the duration of the season.

Traditionally, many people have given up something for the duration of Lent, including those who would not call themselves churchgoers, strangely enough, and whilst 'dry January' has become popular, nevertheless many still take Lent seriously.

I do wonder if giving up something is a distraction somewhat lost on children who, I suspect, suffer the deprivation of crisps/snacks, chocolate (ever a popular choice amongst the old and young alike!), but never fully understand the significance of the act. When I ask children what they have given up for Lent, answers range from 'Lego' to not using the tablet or playing internet games, though giving up chocolate, sweets or crisps is still popular, but quite defined in detail!

Of course, the intention is that by cutting out something that you really enjoy, you will enter in to the suffering of Our Lord when he went into the wilderness for 40 days and 40 nights, prior to the beginning of his earthly ministry proper. I use the term 'enter in', alluding to the suffering of Jesus in those 40 days, who went without food or water and in his weakened state, was tempted by the devil afterwards. We hardly suffer in giving up something, though I guess it will remind us, so perhaps it would be better to take on something extra in our lives for the duration of Lent and maybe beyond, instead?

A further point of debate is the calculation of the length of Lent. We talk about forty days and forty nights based on Jesus' time in the wilderness recorded in the Gospels, but whilst the start of Lent is always Ash Wednesday, the end of Lent is debatable. Counting 40 days from Ash Wednesday you get to Palm Sunday – the start of Holy Week. Is that when Lent ends? Some say we should regard every Sunday in the year as a feast day, because it is always the day of Resurrection, so by discounting Sundays in Lent (when you may break your Lenten fast), you get right through Holy Week to Holy Saturday or Easter Eve, if you prefer.

So, when should you end your Lenten Fast? I leave it to you to decide!

Throughout this season – these next 40 days or so - I encourage you to take a pause in your life; if you're a Christian it's a good time to look at your relationship with God and your relationships with others: how you behave at home, at school, in the workplace, in the shops and on the street. Furthermore, I would say to those of you who don't particularly believe in God, it's still worthwhile using this time to consider your attitude to your own life and your behaviour towards others.

I hope all of this is food for thought, as I wish you a peaceful Lent.

I am yours in Christ,  
John.



## Mothering Sunday Service

Sunday 10th March

9am Family Service in the Church

All welcome



## LENT LUNCHES

These are held every **Friday** in the  
Thomas Field Hall until Friday 22nd March.  
12.30pm – 1.30pm

For the small sum of £7.00 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.

Virginia (842428)

## LOOKING ON THE BRIGHT SIDE

Those gale force winds, tossing trees like matchwood,  
Do try to see the positive, the bright side, if you would,  
It's made heaps of firewood and you can see the sky all day,  
That disappearing trampoline? to be fair, you never liked it anyway.

Shame about the chickens, they're somewhere in the wood,  
The hen-house roof went with them, just compost where it stood,  
An egg hunt now brings such an exciting new dimension,  
(Although thoughts of Mr. Fox, may cause some apprehension.)

And all that rain! The goldfish have now left the pond,  
All happily heron dodging in the great beyond,  
It's bog gardens trending now, and all things subterranean,  
Forget gravel beds and lavender, and a drier Mediterranean.

You've got trench foot from your wellies, a noisy, hacking cough,  
And as for those ancient, fragrant ski socks, they'll need chipping off.

But, looking on the bright side, should we host that Beast  
back from the East,  
That should probably delay the hosepipe ban until, ooh, say,  
June at least!

Josie Jeffrey



## RNLI SOS DAY

Thank you to all who came and supported us on 20th January for our SOS Soup and Crumble lunch. Thank you to everyone who gave so generously. We sent £390.50 (including £30 from the 5p Betty Pots) to the RNLI. Thank you again for coming and supporting us.

Virginia Westmacott

## 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](mailto:anneisherwood@btinternet.com)** as the lilies have to be ordered in good time for Easter. The cost is £4 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 during Lent. Thank you.

Anne Isherwood

## Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Sunday 21st April 2024

in the Church

following on from the 9am 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.

**JAZZ**  
AT  
ST. JOHN'S

T J JOHNSON PRESENTS

**JOPLIN PARNELL  
QUARTET**

**SAT 23 MARCH 7:30**

WEAVING A RICH TAPESTRY OF NEW  
ORLEANS RHYTHM & BLUES AND  
BRAZILIAN CHORO, NEW YORK  
STRIDE AND FRENCH MUSETTE WITH  
A TANGO OR TWO THROWN IN FOR  
GOOD MEASURE.

**BAR**

TICKETS £18 FROM 01442 246513 OR ONLINE AT  
[WWW.WEGOTTICKETS.COM/EVENT/602134](http://WWW.WEGOTTICKETS.COM/EVENT/602134)



IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE FRIENDS OF GREAT GADDESSEN CHURCH

## **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 21<sup>st</sup> April 2024.

We will be leaving a copy of the current roll on display in the church from Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March to Monday 1<sup>st</sup> 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 2023, 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 parishor
  - (b) if you live outside the parish you should be a regular member of the congregation at St Peter and St Paul
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, enrollment 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 1<sup>st</sup> April. If you would like to discuss this further, please talk to John Russell, our churchwardens Terri Adams and Jane Dickson, or to me, the Electoral Roll Officer.

Annabelle Grassini, Electoral Roll Officer  
[electoral.roll@littlegaddesdenchurch.org.uk](mailto:electoral.roll@littlegaddesdenchurch.org.uk)



## **1<sup>st</sup> Little Gaddesden Scout Group JUMBLE SALE**

On 16<sup>th</sup> March 2024

in Little Gaddesden Village Hall  
10.00 – 12 noon

£1.00 entrance fee

For collections, contact Linda on 842512 or 07885 367857  
or bring Jumble to the Village Hall on  
Friday evening 15<sup>th</sup> from 4pm or  
from 9am on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup>



## **Palm Sunday Service**

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March**

9am Procession from the village hall  
to the church for a family service  
(hopefully with Donkey, the donkey!)

## **A Chorister Describes His Experience of the Coronation of King Charles III, 6th May 2023 at Westminster Abbey, London by Arthur Togneri, aged 13**

*Arthur Togneri has occasionally played the organ and piano and sung at our church, particularly at the funeral and memorial services of his grandmother Julie Leonhardt in 2021.*

The lead up to Coronation is one of the most amazing things I've experienced and something that I will remember for the rest of my life. I am privileged to have been the Senior Chorister of Westminster Abbey at the Coronation and it is hard to explain how incredible it was for us. In September 2022, we had the honour of singing at Queen Elizabeth II's funeral. In January 2023, Andrew Nethsingha took over from James O'Donnell, meaning the outgoing Director of Music did the funeral, and the incoming Director of Music did the Coronation. After the Queen died, and long before the date for the Coronation was announced, I remember my year group hoping that the Coronation would take place before we left the Choir School. Luckily, it was on 6 May 2023, a few months before our final services.

In the fortnight running up to the big event, we had approximately 70 hours of rehearsals: an extraordinary amount to fit in. We didn't have many school lessons, but we did numerous music rehearsals in Song School, and in the Abbey, with the orchestra and with the BBC.

Dean's Yard, the square next to the Abbey where the school is situated, was often full of police making sure the area was safe, and escorting the Royal Family for their rehearsals. On the way to one of our rehearsals, I remember lining up and waving at King Charles and Queen Camilla on the way back from theirs, and they waved at us. The security was very tight and our teachers were questioned about their views on the Royal Family, and needed three different lanyards to get through to the secure zone. The food deliveries were often delayed due to additional security measures and we ended up with different meals than what were planned. Another time, some of us were playing computer games in school when we heard scrabbling paws and crackling radios as a pack of sniffer dogs and police came in to check the building.

As someone who loves composing, I especially enjoyed the Coronation for all the new commissions and the chance to meet and talk to some of the composers and the arrangers for the orchestra pieces. These were completely top-secret, and we couldn't tell anyone what they were until shortly before the service. The Abbey Choir went to a studio in North London to record one of the new commissions by Andrew Lloyd Webber, *Make a Joyful Noise*. It was a great afternoon and we met Lord Lloyd Webber who told us to "make it more joyful". Earlier in the morning, my

French teacher gave me his Phantom of the Opera book hoping I would be able to get him to sign it. Luckily, he was very happy to do so.

In one of the Abbey rehearsals, I was glad to speak to John Rutter and I got a picture with him. We also had the pleasure of performing with amazing singers, including Bryn Terfyl and Roderick Williams. It was great to sing with the Choir of His Majesty's Chapel Royal, choristers from Truro Cathedral Choir, choristers from Chapel Choir of Methodist College Belfast and an octet from the Monteverdi Choir. All the choirs together made a brilliant sound, and the day we all sang with each other for the first time which was roughly two weeks before the Coronation, was a special day to remember.

The Abbey staff, including numerous individuals and departments such as: The Dean and Chapter, the organists, the Lay Vicars, the vergers, the flower arrangers, the bell ringers, the restoration experts, the beadles, the stewards, and many others, had six months to arrange things for the event. This was in sharp contrast to Queen Elizabeth II's funeral where we had ten days to prepare; however, as a trained professional choir, to an extent we were already ready for both the funeral and the Coronation.

There were meetings taking place with the Archbishop of Canterbury, and meetings with the King discussing the music he wanted. The Quire stalls were all restored and gilded, and some of the gates were re-painted and gilded too - this all gave the Abbey a shiny new feel. At one stage, the Quire stalls were hidden under scaffolding, so we had to move over to a slightly different place to sing the daily services. While the conservation department was restoring the Quire, they found an old service paper from the 1920s.

At night there was none of the usual traffic noise because all the roads had closed around the Abbey, but there were news helicopters flying about and even military bands marching and practising at 3 am in the morning. Some of my friends found this annoying, but luckily, I slept right through it all.

One of the exciting changes in the Abbey was that a whole new floor and carpet was put in: there were usually stairs going up to the high altar, but that was changed to a gradual slope and the whole floor was raised up. There were fancy new blue and yellow carpets installed. Because of this, we needed to wear shoe covers before we walked on the carpet! I had a nosebleed before one of the rehearsals and the staff were very worried that I would drip blood onto it, but fortunately I didn't. The carpet created a different acoustic because it absorbed lots of the sound, so we had to work extra hard.

The layout of the Abbey meant that the orchestra had to be high up in the organ loft which was out of sight from the Quire, so a system of cameras and screens allowed Sir Antonio Pappano, who was conducting the orchestra, to see Mr Nethsingha who was conducting everyone from the Quire. It was complicated and difficult to get everyone in time with each other, and we had to rehearse Walton's Coronation Te Deum a lot. However, our first full rehearsal with the orchestra and trumpeters was amazing; it was rewarding to hear everyone's hard work unite.

Two days before, on Thursday 4 May, we had the full-dress rehearsal. This was the first time we saw the whole service come together. Almost everyone was wearing either ceremonial dress, elaborate uniforms, opulent garments or ancient costumes; many were adorned with jewels and embroidered with gold thread, others with swan feathers as part of their hats, some people were holding swords and axes. We also got to hear some of the other performances for the first time, including Pretty Yende, the Coronation orchestra, the Ascension Choir and the Byzantine Chant Ensemble. They all sounded wonderful.

By Friday, we were feeling confident with all the music, and we were having vocal rest and feeling the anticipation of the day to come. We had a special lunch, and for dessert, we had a cake aptly-named by the kitchen, 'Charles Sponge'. My Mum came up to see me briefly and due to the strict security, I had to meet her at the back gates of Dean's Yard near Westminster School. As we were talking, we saw the delivery of boxes of the Order of Service coming through. Later the choir members were each given one as a souvenir. Our Headmaster, Mr Mitchell, walked us to Hyde Park to see the giant screens that people would watch the following day. It was remarkable to think that our faces would be shown on these, as well as on televisions across the world.

On the day of the Coronation, we all woke up really early, even though we were supposed to have a lie-in until 7.30am. We had showers and were busy combing our hair, brushing our teeth, and polishing our shoes to look good for the day. At 8.45am we walked over to Song School to get into cassocks and have our final rehearsal, which was fortunately very short. After that, we ran through some of the practicalities like standing, sitting, and bowing. We stayed in the Song School and I talked to my friends and some of the people from the other choirs. Then Mr Nethsingha wished us good luck and we made our way in.

I was a little nervous for the service because of how important it was. I was worried about dropping my music folder because it had to hold about two hundred pages of music. Mr Nethsingha had even more, including several huge volumes of choir and orchestral scores. Walking in to Henry Purcell's Trumpet Tune, we made our way to the Quire and sat down and listened to some of the pre-service music. The Assistant Organist, Mr Jorysz played a lot of the music before the service and he

also rehearsed some of the music with us, as did the Sub-Organist Mr Holder who played the organ for the service itself. In the Quire, I was sitting right next to a line of former prime ministers and had a good view of the Coronation Chair; we sat for around 30 minutes until the service started.

The State Trumpeters played their fanfare and we all stood for the arrival of the King and Queen. We sang Parry's I was Glad, as I sang the first three notes, I remember thinking, "Wow! This is it; it's finally happening." The suspensions in the piece were spine tingling and getting increasingly climactic as the slow procession made its way through. The whole service was incredible, it was amazing to sing with all the other choirs, and the singing was beautiful, and it felt so powerful and uplifting.

One of my highlights of the service was the Anointing, because it is arguably the most important part and because we sang Handel's Zadok the Priest while it was taking place. Another highlight was the Walton Te Deum – that was my favourite piece because it is complex which makes it fun to sing.

The service finished with Elgar's joyous Pomp and Circumstance March No. 4. We stood up and bowed as the King and Queen walked past, some of the Royal Family smiled and said thank you on their way out. I felt elated after the service and as we processed out, all the congregation clapped! We waited in the cloisters for everyone to leave, and in the meantime, I talked to some of the people waiting around me. There was one of the King's Bodyguards who let me hold his sword and someone from the army who won the Victoria Cross. Many of the guests, including the previous prime ministers, said "well done" to us.

We walked back to school and changed out of our robes. We were all so happy, but it was slightly shadowed by the fact that it was all over. We had a small lunch and Mr Nethsingha came over to eat with us and congratulate us. After that, I left Dean's Yard where my parents picked me up and we went to a small Coronation party. We ate Coronation Chicken, pavlova decorated with berries in the design of the Union Jack, and a special cake in the shape of a crown. We watched the television to see who got close-ups. I got a few good ones and we were all in the national newspapers the following day.

As a choir that sings daily services and is always learning new music, we are used to working with very packed schedules, but this brought it to an extraordinary new level. Everything about this time including the music - new and old, the collaboration with the other musicians, the TV cameras and crew, the grandeur, the ceremony, and the historical importance, is something that will stay with me for the rest of my life.

Arthur Togneri

## **The Ark of the Covenant**

(continued from December 2023/January 2024 issue)

On completion of the rock-hewn churches in Roha, King Lalibela set about moving his capital from Axum to Roha. The new capital was later renamed Lalibela in honour of the king, but the Ark remained in the church of St. Mary of Sion in Axum.

Crosses have played a major role in Ethiopian religious, cultural and social life and have emerged as an important artistic emblem. The first crosses were seen on coins introduced by King Ezana on his and the country's conversion to Christianity in the 4th. century. King Lalibela's craftsmen, however, designed new and more elaborate crosses that were mainly of 3 types: processional, hand-held and pendants. They were made of gold, silver, bronze or wood and, over time, the different regions had different designs with the Falashas basing their crosses on the Star of David. The processional crosses would be mounted on a long staff and carried by senior priests, who would use them at the time of blessing a new church or on other significant religious occasions. Priests would seldom be seen without a hand-held cross that would be kissed by the faithful seeking a blessing.

In the early 13th. century, an Armenian geographer, Abu Salih, was instructed to make a survey of churches and monasteries in Egypt and neighbouring countries, such as Ethiopia, which he visited just after the completion of the rock-hewn churches. His book was translated into English in the 19th. century and it contains sections of comments and observations about 'Abyssinia' as follows: 'The Abyssinians possess the Ark of the Covenant, in which are the 2 tables (tablets) of stone inscribed by the finger of God with the commandments which He ordained for the Children of Israel. The Ark is placed on the altar and is as high as the knee of a man and is overlaid with gold'. The Armenian had also seen how the relic was used by the Christians at Axum: 'The liturgy is celebrated upon the Ark..... a canopy is spread over it when taken from its own church to the church in the palace of the king.' The dimensions and appearance described were very close to those mentioned in the Bible and the way that the Ark was covered with a 'canopy' when transported was also in accord with the regulations laid down in the Bible. As described in December/January's issue, each Ethiopian Orthodox church has a replica of the Ark once it is consecrated. The word they use for the replica is a *Tabot*. The research of

historians and scholars leads them to believe that *Tabot* does not refer to a replica of the Ark but to its contents: the tablets of stone or wood.

Another interesting point coming from Abu Salih's book is that he mentions witnessing the Ark being transported during a ceremonial occasion (probably in Axum at the time of *Timkat*, in January) by bearers who were white in complexion and with blond hair. If the European Templars had assisted in the design and excavation of the rock-hewn churches in Lalibela, they would have appeared much lighter skinned than the Ethiopians when seen by Abu Salih. It is also quite probable that they would have been granted significant privileges, such as the carrying of the Ark. The question one then asks is that if their main interest in Ethiopia was to confirm the existence of the Ark in Axum, did they use their position of trust and power to smuggle it back to Europe, once a favourable opportunity presented itself?



[The crosses shown are as follows: a typical processional cross in silver from Lalibela (note the 4 doves of peace and the cross at the top); a silver *croix pattée* pendant cross (the symbol of the Knights Templar) from Lalibela above a Falasha's silver pendant, Star of David, from near Gondar; a silver hand-held cross. The ruler is a foot long.]

(to be continued in April 2024's issue)

Mike Walsham

## **A SPRING CLEAN FOR SPRING**

Right. First off, we need to tidy up those (\*\*\*\*\*) grey squirrels which are back in depressingly enormous numbers. Let us be very clear: they are invaders, imported by stupid Victorians and are pointless (acorns are buried and forgotten by jays) and are utterly destructive. They cost the timber trade and farming millions of pounds every year, they do enormous amounts of damage to woodlands, hedgerows, gardens (and inside houses, should they get in, which is not at all uncommon), they are responsible for taking untold songbird eggs and nestlings and, of course, have decimated the native red squirrel to extinction in almost all of the U.K. They are, from any angle, 'sciurus non grata'. There is no place for them in our country and TV nature programmes really should not feature them as cute, harmless and somehow lovable. They are so not. There are so many engaging wild creatures to be entertained by; hedgehog, any-one? Harvest mouse? Red squirrel? Water vole? Hare? None of which is exactly proliferating, unlike the out-of-control grey.

I have had to stop feeding the birds, including blue, coal and great tits, goldfinches, robins, dunnocks etcetera. I hadn't realised just how engaging these welcome and useful bird visitors are and it saddens me to see them look around for the usual sunflower hearts, peanuts and fat balls which I have had to remove from these greedy, destructive, pox ridden and completely unwelcome rodents.

I have now acquired a large bag of chilli powder to mix in with the feed, which the birds do not seem to mind. Should you feel inclined also to try to reduce the out-of-control population of this unpleasant and damaging creature, it is legal to shoot them on your own land and squirrel traps can be acquired from Metcalfes in Tring and, of course, online. They can be baited with aforesaid bird food or peanut butter (and I am told, that they will risk all for a snicker's bar - other choc bars are available) . Mine is awaiting some maintenance and TLC right now as they are treating it as a squirrel Ritz. There are various



methods of disposal, but do not release them elsewhere, as it is illegal. Left out in open spaces, the red kites will soon dispose of them.

The National Trust used to get rid of many of them with poison pods, but since the influx of post lockdown walkers who do not realise that they are not a 'good thing', some pods have been found opened, putting dogs at risk. Due to the fact that there are so many more visitors to the Ashridge woods, the practice of shooting has also had to be curtailed. The only hope now is that they can feed them with the squirrel contraception that has been written about. It's not as if that will make them any more promiscuous is it? I wonder when it will become generally available, it would take a long time to eradicate the problem, but at least it will be going the right way, unlike now.

In the meantime, please let us do our utmost to try to decrease the scourge of the overpopulation of the nasty grey squirrel. They are so not cute. Next month: Tidying up the snapping alligator turtle: would it make a tasty soup? Possibly off putting is that they wouldn't win any prizes in the cute & pretty stakes, unlike the grey squirrel, which is also very tasty, so I understand.

Josie Jeffrey

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

19th February

Burial of Ashes

Gillian and Michael  
Hancock

Funeral

George Ferguson

# CHILDREN'S PAGE

**COLOURS** are very important in the church. Different colours are used for different times of the year. If you look carefully you will see the panel at the front of the altar change colour, as well as the hangings on the pulpit and the brass eagle.



DAFFODIL

LILY



U B E L

The colour of the dress worn by Mary, Jesus' mother. There is a story that the speedwell grew at the side of the road to Calvary

Here are some of the important colours for

**EASTER**

You can see them in the flowers which are out now, some in the garden and some in flower shops.

L E Y O W L

This is the colour of the sun, bringing warmth and new life back to earth.

CROCUS

IRIS



T I W E H

The colour of purity and joy. The joy that Jesus had come alive at Easter. Life was going to be completely different and new. He had beaten the blackness of death.



*Draw a line to link the flower with its name, then colour in the flowers in the right colours.*

L U P E R P

The colour of a king's robe. The dye was made from a tiny shellfish and was very expensive. Pilate dressed Jesus in a purple robe.

## **PRAYER PAGE**

Gracious and Holy Father, give us wisdom to perceive You,  
intelligence to understand You, diligence to seek You,  
patience to wait for You, eyes to behold You,  
hearts to meditate on You, and life to proclaim You,  
through the power of the Holy Spirit of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**  
St Benedict (c480-547)

### **Mothering Sunday, 10th March**

Heavenly Father,  
we praise and thank you as we celebrate Mothering Sunday;  
a chance to express thankfulness and joy  
as we remember our own mothers or carers,  
who have, or still are, serving their families.  
We also remember and pray for those for whom today  
will be difficult and sad.

**Amen**

### **David, Bishop of Menevia, Patron of Wales, c.601, 1<sup>st</sup> March**

Almighty God, who called your servant David  
to be a faithful and wise steward of your mysteries  
for the people of Wales:  
in your mercy grant that, following his purity of life and  
zeal for the gospel of Christ, 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**

#### **Parish News Editors:**

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**Deadline Date: Friday 15th March**

## CHURCH SERVICES – MARCH

### I    Sunday 3rd March – Lent 3

9am	Parish Communion	Little Gaddesden
11am	Parish Communion	Great Gaddesden
6pm	Evensong	Nettleden

### II    Sunday 10th March – Mothering Sunday

9am	Morning Prayer	Nettleden
9am	Café Church	Little Gaddesden
11am	Café Church	Great Gaddesden

### III    Sunday 17th March – Lent 5

9am	Parish Communion	Little Gaddesden
11am	Parish Communion	Great Gaddesden
6pm	Evensong	Nettleden

### IV    Sunday 24th – Palm Sunday

9am	Morning Prayer with blessing of the palms	Nettleden
9am	Donkey procession from village hall to church, Family Service	Little Gaddesden
11am	Donkey procession to church, Family Service	Great Gaddesden

### Tuesday 26th March

7.30pm	Stations of the Cross	Little Gaddesden
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### Thursday 28th March – Maundy Thursday

7.30pm	Sung Eucharist with stripping of the altars	Great Gaddesden
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### Friday 29th March – Good Friday

11am	Service of Witness on The Green	Little Gaddesden
2pm	Hour before the Cross	Nettleden

### V    Sunday 31st March – Easter Day

9am	Holy Communion with hymns	Nettleden
9am	Family Communion	Little Gaddesden
11am	Family Communion	Great Gaddesden

### I    Sunday 7th April – Easter 2

9am	Parish Communion	Little Gaddesden
11am	Parish Communion	Great Gaddesden
6pm	Evensong	Nettleden

### Mid-Week Services

Tuesdays	9am Holy Communion	Great Gaddesden
Thursdays	10am Holy Communion	Little Gaddesden