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Number 272

May 2019



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Reader Ramblings

By Gill Moore

I have always been fascinated by dates and anniversaries of when events happened even if I didn't always remember the correct year. So when I was asked to write the opening letter for the month of May I began by looking at significant dates during the month.

We begin the month of May in the Christian calendar by remembering the Apostles St Philip and St James on the 1st, Rogation Sunday on the 26th (followed by three rogation days when we pray for God's blessings on the crops and livestock), Ascension Day on the 30th and finally on the 31st by remembering the visit of the Blessed Virgin Mary to her cousin Elizabeth.

Of all the above dates and commemorations in May, it is Ascension Day which brings back the most memories for me. When I was growing up in Cheshire I attended the nearby Church School and on Ascension Day the whole school would walk to the local Parish Church (in an orderly fashion and in twos!) where we would have a special service. We would then return to school. I must confess that I can remember very little about those services but I do remember that following that service we were given the afternoon off as a holiday!!

Ascension Day is one of the earliest Christian festivals dating back to the year 68. It is the 40th day of Easter occurring 39 days after the resurrection of Jesus on Easter Day. Biblical accounts of the Ascension can be found in Matthew chapter 28, Mark chapter 16, Luke chapter 24 and also in the Acts of the Apostles chapter 1. In these accounts we can read of how the resurrected Jesus met several times with his disciples during the 40 days to instruct them on how

to carry out his teachings. Then on the 40th day he took them to the Mount of Olives, where they watched as he ascended to heaven.

Ascension Day is celebrated in many different countries though in some as it falls on a Thursday, the main celebrations are moved to the following Sunday. Here in our three parishes there will be a service of Holy Communion at 10am in Little Gaddesden Church on Ascension Day as well as Ascension services on the following Sunday.

In England, Ascension Day is associated with various water festivals ranging from Well Dressing in Derbyshire to the Planting of the "Penny Hedge" at Whitby, a small town in Yorkshire. Other customs may include "beating the bounds". In the old days, it involved beating boys with willow branches as they are driven along parish boundaries, not only to purify them of evil but to teach them the limits of their parish. In modern times, it can involve people in the locality walking around their farm, manorial, church or civil boundaries pausing as they pass certain trees, walls and hedges that denote the extent of the boundary to exclaim, pray and ritually 'beat' particular landmarks with sticks. Customs sometimes observed on Rogation Sunday or the three following days.

There are various folk lore stories associated with Ascension Day in England. For instance eggs laid on Ascension Day are said to never go bad and will guarantee good luck for a household if placed in the roof. In Devon, it was also an ancient belief that the clouds always formed into the familiar Christian image of a lamb on Ascension Day. People also said that if the weather is sunny on Ascension Day, the summer will be long and hot. If it rains on the day, crops will do badly and livestock will suffer from disease. According to Welsh superstition, it

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is unlucky to do any work on Ascension Day.

Further afield in Portugal, Ascension Day is associated with wishes for peace and prosperity. Traditionally, in rural communities, people make bouquets from olive branches and sheaves of wheat with poppies and daisies. The olive and wheat are symbolic of abundant harvest; the poppy stands for peace and the daisy for money. Wheat is kept in the house throughout the coming year as a symbol of prosperity.

The flag will hopefully be flying high on our churches as we commemorate Ascension Day and as we, like the very first disciples wait to celebrate Pentecost (Whit Sunday), sometimes referred to as the birthday of the church, some ten days later.

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

CREAM TEAS & CAKES



Sunday 12th May

Sunday 9th June

Sunday 7th July

(in conjunction with the fete)

Sunday 11th August

Sunday 8th September

Times: 2.30 – 4.30 pm

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*Please note
change of July
date*



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"I can't recommend Jo and her team enough" - Virginia Burden-Cooper, local resident

Great Gaddesden Bellringers - Sue Collyer

Various events and celebrations of significant birthdays and weddings are happening around me and in amongst the fun and reunions I can't believe how quickly the years have passed, and that while people have obviously aged – they still remain basically the same as they always were. Definitely a bit greyer, perhaps a bit wiser, slightly less impetuous but their personalities remain as true as ever.

I have now been ringing for some 7 years and I was trying to remember what prompted me to take up this particular hobby with its quiriness, its weird language, its association in many people's minds alongside Morris Dancers, train spotters and other rather dodgy minority activities. I do remember that when I was a teenager I lived in Merstham in Surrey – opposite St Katherine's church – and regularly on a Wednesday evening the sound of the ringing practice would prevent any conversation or telly-watching, and my Father's comments were unrepeatable! Little did I think then that I would one day embark on learning to ring myself.

The years rolled by and I think my next close encounter with bell-ringers came when my husband and I were walking the Coast to Coast path with some friends and we were staying in a B & B just inland from our destination. We shared our breakfast table with another couple walking our route who had rung bells along the way – and for whom the highlight of their journey was not just reaching the North Sea, but also going to ring in Whitby. We thought them very odd, and were, I'm ashamed to say, rather disdainful of their curious enthusiasm for this strange activity. From my present standpoint, I am now filled with admiration for this stalwart couple who not only completed the walk across England of 192 miles, but who also had enough energy left at the end of

the day to go off bell ringing – and there are 199 steps to be climbed up to St Mary's church in Whitby!

Bell ringing has been in the news recently – on 13th April there was a piece on BBC Breakfast show discussing whether bell-ringing is a sport or a hobby and showing one of the presenters in the tower of Wokingham church learning how to pull a rope for the first time. The item explained the commitment of ringers, the time taken to learn the skill, but also emphasised the camaraderie of the teamwork needed, the benefits of the physical activity and the brain work-out. They did not reach a conclusion over the sport vs hobby question!

The film also highlighted the rigorous safety measures which are in place in all towers. In November of last year another item of news was of a young man who very unfortunately had been injured when the wooden stay on which the bell rests had broken as he was ringing in St Helen's church in Abingdon. Incidents like this are widely reported in the press but in fact are very rare and bell ringers take safety issues very seriously. The governing body of bell ringing, the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers has well established safety and maintenance guidelines to enable towers to identify any risks, to minimise them and to ensure the bells can be rung safely. John is our 'steeple keeper' and to him falls the task of carrying out regular checks and maintenance, keeping records and ensuring any necessary remedial action is taken.

Bell ringing is actively pursued by over 30,000 people on a regular basis in complete safety and bell ringers and members of the local community can be re-assured that ringing is a safe and enjoyable activity, offering many health and social benefits.

THE OLD PASTURES

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Gaddesden Row Methodist Church



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Services take place every 1st & 3rd Sunday of the month

At 10.30am

We welcome you to join our small Village Church Services

For information on any of our services please call Clare on 01582 840021

PLANNING NEWS

Readers have commented that since Victor Brooks move to Northamptonshire, not only do they miss his wit and humour concerning officialdom but also his summary of local planning applications.

These are all readily available on the Dacorum Borough Council planning website along with all the supporting documents of each application in an easily searched format (*It must be easy since I can do it !*). You can search by dates, months or weeks and by parish council.

For those with very slow or no internet access, I shall endeavour to update the newsletter with a brief summary of recent local applications on a monthly basis.

Recent applications since the beginning of February have been:

Wyevale Garden Centre, Further details as required by condition 9 regarding planning permission for dog day care facilities

Ragged Hall, Gaddesden Row, proposed alterations to existing rear extension

The Hoo, Ledgemore Lane, replacement of existing main gate

Lovatts Cottage, Clements End Road, conditions re materials

Ballingdon Cottage, Clements End Road, replacement roof tiles and roof refurbishment

Nevarest, Noake Mill Lane, conversion of detached property to two semi-detached properties together with extension.

Oak Cottage, Water End, work to trees

The Hoo, Ledgemore Lane, agricultural access track

Southings Manor Farm, Clements End Road, conversion of single storey stable building to offices

Withies, Leighton Buzzard Road, further conditions re two-storey extension



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GREAT GADDESSEN PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk to Great Gaddesden Parish Council
Email: ggparishcouncil@gmail.com

DEFIBRILLATOR AWARENESS and CPR training in GREAT GADDESSEN PARISH

Despite a very encouraging turnout at the recent meeting, a number of you were possibly unable to attend for various reasons. We thought it would be a good idea, not least because the defibrillators are now installed, to have a further meeting. This will familiarise you with the device and provide potentially lifesaving advice on CPR.

The meeting will be at:

**7.30pm on TUESDAY 7 MAY
GADDESSEN ROW VILLAGE HALL**

Please put it in your diary now

To ensure the success of this initiative it is vital that we attract a number of supporters to help in various roles. If you would be prepared to help please contact Malcolm Stodell at m.stodell@btinternet.com

Could you please bring the contents of this notice to the attention of friends and neighbours, who you think might overlook it.

PS 1 week after the Great Gaddesden defibrillator was installed it was accessed by a parishioner at the suggestion of the 999 call handler, in case it proved necessary. In the event it was not required but did provide reassurance to the rescuer.



Parish Council meetings 2019

Great Gaddesden Parish Hall

15th July,

16th September, 21st October, 18th November

Gaddesden Row Village Hall

20th May, 17th June

All meetings are on Mondays and commence at 8.00pm
unless otherwise noted

Venues subject to final confirmation - always check the current newsletter

The Parish Council

Chairman: Paul Harris 01442 258773

Vice-Chairman: Andy Thompson 01442 843751

Members: Janice Brown 01442 247272

Martin Lindley 01442 200779

Paul Sandford 07767 075490

Malcolm Stodell 01582 840059

Louise Wilson 01442 842498

Clerk: Anne Nudd 07512 192188

(For all enquiries about the Parish Council and local matters.)

NOTE NEW Council e-mail address is ***ggparishcouncil@gmail.com***

Anything published in this newsletter does not necessarily reflect the views of the Parish Council

Parish Council Website

The Parish Council's new website is now available
at ***www.greatgaddesdenparishcouncil.org.uk***



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or contact Karen of 'Karens in the Dog House!' fame to discuss your needs.

**Everyone is welcome to join us at the hall for our
Annual General Meeting at 7:30pm
on Monday 13th May**



We do try to keep an up to date list of birthdays.

If anyone wants to add names to our list or knows of people who have moved away and could perhaps have their names removed, please contact:

The Editor

Mike Connell

mike@mpconnell.co.uk

Names are normally removed after the person becomes 18, but we can include 'special' birthdays for any age.

BIRTHDAYS - May

Archie Florido	5th	15
Lilly Green	12th	10
Ciaran O’Gorman	13th	14
Rhys Greenwood	16th	10
Holly Trueman	19th	8
Poppy Bryant	19th	13
Bradley Price	22nd	14
Seamus McIntosh	27th	15
Sonny Allsopp	27th	12
Madison Coyles	27th	10
Bill Bekele	30th	13

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Great Gaddesden CofE (VA) School

For pupils aged 3-11

Spring is now fully upon us at Great Gaddesden School, and this is clear with the appearance of the beautiful flowers poking their heads above the parapet. The other clear sign is the children turning up to school in their shorts, braving the crisp mornings for the momentary bursts of warmth as the day goes on.

Since the last newsletter, the children have been busy. Early Years, who have been working on travel as one of their projects, took a train journey which was thoroughly enjoyed by the children.

Years 1 and 2 headed to Claydon House which was the residence of Florence Nightingales. While there, they dressed as trades from that age and had great fun.

Years 3 and 4 headed out for a football tournament. There were some 30 teams participating and the Great Gaddesden Team did very well placing very near the top. One of the boys stated "I felt very proud to represent the school and that we all played well together to win lots of our matches."

With Mothering Sunday in the month of March, Years 5 and 6 attended the church where they made posies to give to their mums. FOGGS assisted some of the younger children to plant bulbs to bring home as gifts for their

mums and I hope that you mums are all enjoying them as much as we are enjoying ours!

The Easter term ended with our Easter Service. The next day was the annual Easter egg hunt which was very eggs-citing (*Sorry, editors little joke!*).

The school is hosting the annual Inter-Village Sports Festival on 9th July at the cricket pitch. We are looking for volunteers who may have a connection with the school who would donate a few hours of their time on the day to help run the refreshment stalls, BBQ and help with parking. Several local schools take part and it is a fairly large event. As a comparatively small school we would like to get as much assistance as possible. If you can help, please contact Friends of Great Gaddesden School (FOGGS) on 07784 952 011.

This is an extremely enjoyable event and as we are hosting this year we are really looking forward to it!

By the time you read this, hope you have all had a very Happy Easter!

Robert Doe
Parent Governor

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Great Gaddesden Parish Church Contacts

Jo Connell (Churchwarden) 01442 842981

Brock House, St Margarets, Gt Gaddesden HP1 3BZ jo@mpconnell.co.uk

Gill Moore (Reader) 01442 842054

3 Widmore Cottages, Bradden Lane, Gaddesden Row, HP2 6JB gillmoore@btinternet.com

Merlin Howells (Churchwarden) 01442 265517

Flat 217, Elizabeth House Hemel Hempstead HP2 5HH

Heather Tisbury (Reader) 01582 842807

20 West Dene, Gaddesden Row HP2 6HU tisbury@btinternet.com

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Gaddesden Row JMI School
April 2019



As a school, we work closely with our Hertfordshire Improvement Partner to ensure that the school is held to account and that we continue to improve. We recently undertook our one day 'Joint Annual review' which scrutinises the school according to the Ofsted Framework. I am delighted to be able to tell you that this visit was highly successful and recognised our great many strengths.

I have summarised the visit report below:

- The school offers a broad and balanced curriculum which promotes a thirst for knowledge, understanding and a love of learning. All pupils interviewed were very positive about their school.
- The headteacher is relentless at improving standards. Her particularly clear vision and high expectations have ensured that the school is continually improving.
- The extent of pupils' 'spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is outstanding and is embedded throughout the curriculum.
- The headteacher is highly effective and played a significant role in creating a vision that is shared by all members of the school community.
- The overall quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good with some examples of outstanding teaching.
- The strongest teachers engaged and challenged all pupils through questioning in order to develop pupils' understanding
- Teachers demonstrated a deep knowledge and understanding of the subjects they taught. The teachers modelled well and provided clear explanations.
- High quality displays were evident throughout the school. A vibrant and inviting Christianity and Judaism display, Van Gogh's Sunflower display were just two of many outstanding displays noted during the visit
- Exemplary behaviour was seen throughout the day. Pupils were polite and courteous.
- Pupils displayed positive behaviours for learning in all classes. They engaged well in lessons and were focused on their learning.
- The extent of pupils' spiritual, moral and social and cultural development is very strong.
- Pupils achieve highly in the national phonics screening check. Outcomes at this measure show a two year rising trend and were well above the 2018 national expectations.
- The early years foundation stage (EYFS) provision is highly effective.
- EYFS Children make rapid progress from their starting points on entry.
- The EYFS leader has worked hard to build positive relationships with parents.
- The language-rich early years environment is highly stimulating with interactive displays
- Evidence seen at the JARV confirms the school's judgements that all aspects of the provision are **good with many outstanding features.**
- This is a rapidly improving school, which is due to the visionary headteacher and effective senior leaders.
- Leaders are relentless in seeking ways to build on the current good practice they have created

We are thrilled with this report as it validates the hard work and dedication of our staff team and the wonderful school community that we have built here at Gaddesden row JMI School!

Well done to all our fantastic children and staff!

Best wishes,

Mrs Clare Talbot - Headteacher

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From Terry Douris - your County Councillor

Remembering PC Francis Mason

We must never under-estimate the courage and dedication of those members of our emergency services who put their own lives at risk when they protect us from harm. It is a truism that when we are running from a situation they are running to it. This was never truer than the situation that PC Frank Mason found himself in on 14th April 1988 at Bank Court when he ran to intercept a bank robbery and sadly paid the ultimate price. On 12th April this year I was privileged to lay a wreath on behalf of the Council and residents at the memorial to Frank Mason in Bank Court.

The Prince's Trust

I was fortunate to attend the presentation of the awards for the Hemel Hempstead and St Albans Team 4 members having completed their 12-week course. The presentation was made by the Deputy Lord Lieutenant to 9 young people between 16 and 25 years of age who had joined the programme 'with their heads down and wondering what the future held for them'. All of them in their own way had challenges to confront and during the programme they participated in a residential week where they took part in some great (and scary!) outdoor activities together with work experience and social activities. The courses are managed by Hertfordshire Fire and Rescue Service in conjunction with Hertfordshire County Council and West Herts College coupled with a range of supporters and contributors. When I visited them earlier this year at Hemel Fire Station I saw the 40 bags of litter which they had collected from the towpath along the Grand Union Canal. It is a lot better now thanks to their efforts. They left yesterday with a new feeling of confidence in themselves and a renewed sense of purpose for the future.

Abuzz with our bee-friendly plan

The County Council is spearheading a Pollinator Action Plan to address the sharp decline in bees and pollinating insects. It is working with landowners, district and borough councils and environmental groups to develop a county-wide commitment to sustainable and environmentally-friendly farming and land management techniques. Plans include increasing pollinator-friendly habitats by planting more wildflowers and other bee-friendly plants, as well as verge management, pollinator-friendly cutting cycles and reducing the use of pesticides.

A recent agreement at the full County Council came on the day scientists revealed that British insects such as bees and hoverflies have drastically decreased by a third over the last three decades across the UK. The scientific review, published in the journal *Nature Communications*, revealed that if current trends continue some species of bees and hoverflies which pollinate food crops and other plants will be lost from Britain altogether.

As a responsible landowner, the county council is committed to preserving the delicate eco-systems and habitats our insect populations depend on. You can be assured that the council has and will continue to support a positive approach to a sustainable and diverse flora-rich environment to ensure that our pollinators have the right food sources to flourish."

Our Rural Estates team has worked to enable the farming community, including county council tenants, to secure environmental scheme aid to help them deliver a range of wildlife benefits. These include the provision of nectar-source crops and wildflower field margins.

If I can help with any aspect of Hertfordshire County Council, please do not hesitate to contact me on 01442 402273 or by email at terry.douris@hertfordshire.gov.uk

I Sunday 5th May – Easter 3		
9.00am	Mattins	Nettleden
9.00am	Parish Communion	Little Gaddesden
10.45am	Parish Communion	Great Gaddesden
6.00pm	Evensong	Little Gaddesden
II Sunday 12th May – Easter 4		
9.00am	Mattins	Nettleden
9.00am	Family Service	Little Gaddesden
10.45am	Family Communion	Great Gaddesden
6.00pm	Evensong	Little Gaddesden
III Sunday 19th May – Easter 5 - Rogation		
9.00am	Parish Communion	Little Gaddesden
10.45am	Parish Communion	Great Gaddesden
6.00pm	Evensong	Nettleden
IV Sunday 26th – Easter 6		
9.00am	Mattins	Nettleden
9.00am	Parish Communion	Little Gaddesden
10.45am	Parish Communion	Great Gaddesden
6.00pm	Alternative Worship	Little Gaddesden
Thursday 30th May –Ascension Day		
10.00 am	Parish Communion	Little Gaddesden
I Sunday 2nd June – Sunday after Ascension, Easter 7		
8.00am	Holy Communion	Nettleden
9.00am	Parish Communion	Little Gaddesden
10.45am	Parish Communion	Great Gaddesden
6.00pm	Evensong	Little Gaddesden
Mid-Week Services		
Thursday	10.00am Holy Communion	Little Gaddesden

please note that not all the service information was available by the print deadline and confirmation of specific services in Nettleden and Little Gaddesden is recommended

Church Duty Rotas

	Sidesmen	Reader	Intercessions
May 5	Peter Diggle	Peter King	Peter Diggle
May 12	Sydney Spencer-Wilson	Jude Burfoot	Gill Moore
May 19	Anna Sladden	Merlin Howells	Heather Tisbury
May 26	Mandy Davie	Jo Connell	Nick Halsey
June 2	Peter King	Peter Diggle	Peter King

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