

ST MARY'S GAMLINGAY, HATLEY ST GEORGE & ST MARY'S EVERTON



Weekly newsletter 1 May 2020



Dear Friends,

Last week wasn't the best for many people, realising that this is indeed 'a marathon, not a sprint'. We are not all marathon runners! However, there are ways of running long distances even if you are not one of those who can keep a steady pace for as long as needed. I was once told (ex-Scouts may put me right or confirm this) that Scouting teaches a way of covering long distances at speed which involves short intervals of alternating walking and running. That probably suits the natural sprinters better than keeping to a slower-than-natural run. We are all in need of ways to cope. I'm reminded of the message in Isaiah (27-31) which refers to those who put their hope in/wait on God having their strength renewed, mounting up on wings like eagles even when the strong grow weary. It's a great picture and reminds us that we have access to resources if we will but trust in them.

I have been wondering if this idea translates into everyday lock-down life. Last week when I had spent two solid days and evenings on phone, email and virtual meetings (except for mealtimes) and on Wednesday had run out of steam by lunch time, I felt so much better for an afternoon in the garden. It would be lovely to hear from each other about what works as 'time out' during this period of enforced separation and limited travel and socialising.

Love from Hilary. *[See further information from me regarding the lead theft on page 2]*

Church of England service by phone

You, or someone you know, may be interested in a new national service for those who cannot get online for sharing services. This could be useful to anyone being bed-bound and finding TV too much but who would still be wanting worship to listen to.

Daily Hope offers music, prayers and reflections as well as full worship services from the Church of England at the end of a telephone line.

The line which is available 24 hours a day on 0800 804 8044 has been set up particularly with those unable to join online church services during the period of restrictions in mind.

From Chris Miller:

Hymn Books: If those who join us for the 9.30am Zoom service on a Sunday morning would find it useful to borrow a green hymn book, please let Chris Miller know. There are three formats – words only, words plus melody and full music (for those who wish to sing parts in harmony). Please contact Chris at cfm55@btinternet.com or 650779.

Intercessions: A reminder that all requests for prayers to be used at the intercessions on a Sunday morning should be with Chris Miller by close of play on a Friday.

History repeats itself. Came across this poem written in 1869, reprinted during 1919 Pandemic.

This is Timeless....

And people stayed at home
And read books
And listened
And they rested
And did exercises
And made art and played
And learned new ways of being
And stopped and listened
More deeply
Someone meditated, someone prayed
Someone met their shadow
And people began to think differently
And people healed.
And in the absence of people who
Lived in ignorant ways
Dangerous, meaningless and heartless,
The earth also began to heal
And when the danger ended and
People found themselves
They grieved for the dead
And made new choices
And dreamed of new visions
And created new ways of living
And completely healed the earth
Just as they were healed.



Lead theft – Progress!

Out of the blue this morning (Wednesday April 29th) I was approached for a statement about the lead theft from Gamlingay Church 18 months ago. A PC from the Rural Crimes Action Team (RCAT) in our area took my statement and told me some interesting information on the crime. I know no one here is going to use it but I won't share everything that has led to present developments. However, you will be pleased to know that our local RCAT team (covering a huge area from northern Peterborough down to the Essex border) is working with the Lincolnshire police who have been able to tie the theft at our church to recent crimes in their area. There is someone on remand in Lincolnshire for lead theft from churches, and good reason to hope that our theft, by the same people who stole from Offord, but NOT those who stole from Gransden, (both sets of crimes perpetrated by two different Romanian gangs) will be pinned down to that individual.

ZOOM by Alec Hissett

I expect, like me, many of you had not heard of Zoom before the lockdown. It has been a very useful means of communicating with our church community, family and friends. If you have not yet used it and have a computer, tablet or smart phone it is well worth giving it a try. Most of the church services since Holy Week have been available via the Zoom application and this is likely to continue until we are allowed to return to our church buildings, and maybe beyond.

If you are receiving the regular updates from Hilary you will have seen the link to each service, if not and you would like to join in then please send an email to:

Gamlingaystmprayer@gmail.com

you will then receive the necessary internet link along with a Meeting Id, Password and the time of the service.

Once logged in you will be prompted to switch on your device camera and microphone, this will allow you to be seen and heard by others attending. To turn off either of these functions you will see the option on the on-screen menu. Once you have joined it is good to see who else is "attending the service". Depending on the device you are using you will be able to select the GALLERY view from the on-screen menu this will display a small picture of each person (sitting in the comfort of their homes). The number of people displayed will depend on your device, to see more people swipe left or right.

This is a very brief overview of the Zoom application and I encourage you to give it a try!

We await further information but there is a possibility, if there is a further conviction, that assets may be reclaimed and, if so, that we might get something back. Whatever the case, I would like to pay tribute to the painstaking gathering and keeping of evidence that RCAT has accomplished, and to thank again the resident on St Mary's who called the police out on the night of Oct 25th 2018, leading to some of the evidence collection which is now proving useful. The Police get a lot of criticism, some of it deserved, but not in this case.

Elcome ramblings.....

**"WHAT IS THIS LIFE IF FULL OF CARE
WE HAVE NO TIME TO STAND AND STARE..."**

This quotation from a well-known poem by W. H. Davies seems to have great relevance for us right now. We are all, to some extent, 'full of care' but many of us also find ourselves with more 'staring time' and what a wealth of treats nature has been providing over the last few weeks! Whether you are restricted to your own garden or able to venture further afield for your daily exercise there has been so much to delight the eye.

Those who have made it up to Gamlingay wood will know that the bluebells this year have been stunning. They are now almost over but there is still plenty to see. The ground is studded with bright yellow celandine and twinkling forget-me-nots; there are small clumps of wood anemone and a scattering of delicate violets; look out for the creamy yellow flowers of the dead nettle and white clouds of blossom on the blackthorn. But, best of all (as far as David is concerned!) the early purple orchids have finally decided to flaunt themselves and where we had been searching in vain they are suddenly abundant and well worth a minute or two of staring time.

In Millbrook Meadows the cowslips have been wonderful and have you spotted the clump of kingcups down beside the brook and maybe the odd water vole splashing about?

The weather is changing now (and we do need the rain) but the unpolluted sky has been a brilliant blue. The warm sunshine has been encouraging butterflies to take to the wing and everyone is remarking on the bird song which seems so much more noticeable than usual. Maybe they too are happier with less pollution in the atmosphere or could it possibly be something to do with people keeping their cats in? On the subject of birds, David has been rather disturbed at the perceived lack of swallows which he feels should be far more evident at this time of year. If you see any please let us know – perhaps we can keep a tally. And do watch out for the swifts at the beginning of May as they make their annual return to established nests at The Emplins and surrounding area.

Take time to 'stop and stare' this week, it is very good for the soul! Perhaps, for next week's newsletter, someone would like to tell us what they have observed in their own garden or allotment?

Valerie has sent in this beautiful lily-of-the valley photo – her favourite plant in the garden. She says: "One of the few advantages of this dreadful time is that some of us have the time to just sit and admire God's bounty."



Important PS to Alec's ZOOM information on page 2 –

we have learned of occasional examples of ZOOM meetings being 'Hacked into'. **Please don't be put off!** Information on good zoom meeting etiquette will be prepared for next time, meanwhile be assured that our present practices are reasonably safe. Should anything untoward come up on your screen, just leave the meeting/service.



Eileen
Thorpe in
her home-
made face
mask.

Well done Eileen! That looks very efficient and it seems highly probable that, before long, we are all going to be required to wear face masks when we go out. The reasons for this are, of course, understandable but please, everyone, spare a thought for the many people for whom some degree of lipreading is an essential aid to communication. For those with hearing loss face masks will make understanding speech at best more difficult and at worst impossible. Much patience and tolerance will be required all round!

A sorry tale from Lindy Gorton!

Looking for a change of occupation today I thought I could no longer put off doing some sewing repairs. It is sometime since I last used my sewing machine, so I threaded it up and got started. Half an hour later there was a buzzing sound and acrid smoke appeared from every crack and orifice. It was just a little intimidating! I have had my Bernina machine for decades and it has probably girdled the earth by now as I used to make wedding dresses to earn my crust, so I am saddened to see my old friend's demise.

A good bit of news - we had a greater spotted woodpecker on our bird table last week. We have only had the lesser spotted before. I would love to know where it came from and how far they roam.

JUST FOR FUN!

How sharp are you? (Answers next week)

1. How many animals of each species did Moses take aboard the ark?
2. If you were alone in a deserted house at night and there was a gas lamp, a fire and a candle and you only had one match, which would you light first?
3. If you drove a bus leaving Rhyl with 40 passengers and dropped off 7, picked up 2 at Prestatyn, stopped at Flint and picked up 10, dropped 8 there and picked up 5, then drove on to arrive in Chester 20 hours later – what was the driver's name?
4. A man built a house of a rectangular structure, each side having a southern exposure. A bear came wandering by. What colour was the bear?
5. Take two apples from three apples and what have you got?
6. Which country has a 4th July – Britain or America?
7. Some months have 31 days, some have 30 days. How many have 28?

Finally, a reminder of some key contact details:

Hilary Young, Parish Priest	hilaryafyoung@gmail.com	650587
Alec Hissett, Gamlingay/Hatley Churchwarden	alechissett@hotmail.com	650052
Chris Miller, LLM/Reader, Gamlingay/Hatley Churchwarden elect	Cfm55@btinternet.com	650779
Valerie Miller, ALM Pastoral	Vjm55@btinternet.com	650779
Dawn Martin, Gamlingay/Hatley PCC Secretary	dawnbeckytmartin@btinternet.com	652832
Jane Gurney, Everton Churchwarden elect		
Ann Naseby, Everton PCC Secretary	annpnaseby@btinternet.com	
Ian Parker, Treasurer to both PCC's	iangparker@hotmail.com	652992
Jane Butcher, Everton outgoing and assistant Churchwarden	Jane.butcher59@googlemail.com	680105

Please contact Brenda Elcome with anything you would like to go in the weekly newsletter

brenda.elcome@ymail.com

Phone: 650489