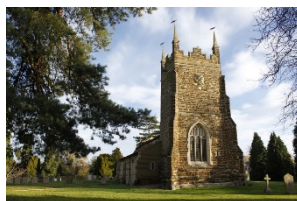


ST MARY'S GAMLINGAY, HATLEY ST GEORGE & ST MARY'S EVERTON



Weekly newsletter 8 May 2020



Dear Friends,

VE day and the start of Christian Aid Week didn't make it into my thinking on Sunday 3rd May for notices, but by Monday there was a good deal happening towards these, some of which is elsewhere in the newsletter, some of which will appear next time.

Fresh off the press is news that adjustments are being made to 'church-in-lockdown' instructions. Do not get too excited though. There is little chance of changes occurring soon for public shared worship. Despite what you may have heard in the National Press, we are still not allowed to conduct funeral services in church. The changes do however allow the incumbent, or a designated other, to visit church on a daily basis to say the office, so watch this space for how we will be organising ourselves over the next few weeks. It is likely to be some time before there is any permission for worship inside churches but let us hope there will soon be the opportunity for outside services.

More Progress News – Alarm for the Roof

It always makes me smile when I see a sign saying 'This roof is alarmed'. 'What has frightened it?' I am tempted to ask. Our roof has had no such worries, the worry has all been with the PCC. However, Thursday this week sees an engineer, from the firm who offered to fit one for us as a gift, turning up to survey for faculty application and fitting. This has been a long road. Let's not cheer too loudly until the camera is actually up there, but it is a most welcome step forward, made possible because we now have the insurance company's agreement that this camera fits their requirements to increase the level of cover we can have for our roof lead

Church of England service by phone

It would be great to hear back from anyone who has used this, or knows anyone who has, and how they found it. Here is a reminder, that **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 is available 24 hours a day on **0800 804 8044**

Hilary

Thank you to Peter Mann for sending the picture of Hatley St George Church, shown above to complete our trio. There is more about Hatley churches, together with more lovely pictures, on the website: www.hatley.info/hatleys-churches. Why not take a look?



CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 10 – 16 MAY

You will **NOT** be getting an envelope through your door this year but you **CAN** still give...

Please think about how much you would normally give.

Do you normally attend the soup lunches or the coffee mornings in aid of Christian Aid? How much would that have cost you?

Maybe this year you could consider giving a bit more?

And if you would normally be delivering the envelopes, why not show your gratitude that you don't have to this year and make a donation instead!

PLEASE, if you possibly can, donate one way or another.....

To give by cheque or postal order, please send via post to:

Christian Aid
Data Solution Centre
Manton Wood Enterprise Park
WORKSOP, S80 2RT

OR on-line to: caweek.org

OR call: 08080 006 006 or 020 7523 2269

For more information about Christian Aid Week visit caweek.org or ring Dorothy on 01767 699165

Thank you

So – how sharp were you?

Answers to last week's JUST FOR FUN questions:

1. Moses didn't take any animals onto the ark, it was Noah!
2. You would light the match first so you could then light the others.
3. The driver's name is your name – you were driving the bus.
4. White. Each side of the house has a southern exposure so it must be at the North Pole where polar bears are white.
5. You've got the two apples you took.
6. Both!
7. They all have 28 days.



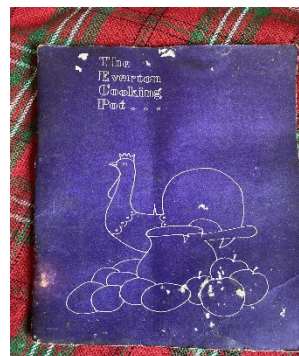
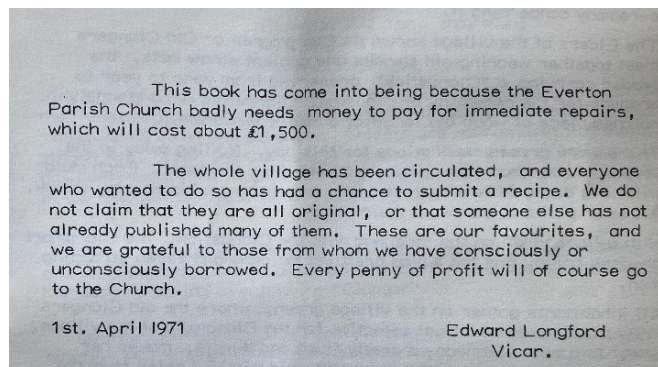
The Guild of St Mary's Scarecrow

Hello to all my fans out there. It's been a while since we last met, I wonder if you remember me? I have been out of action for a while due to the nasty fall I had after the last scarecrow festival at the church. My skull was cracked and I lost my ear, and I had to have stiches in my nose, but I am happy to tell you that I'm all patched up now and looking rather wonderful, apart that is from my lock-down hair! I can't wait for the hairdressers to resume business. I have written to our Prime Minister Boris but he has no sympathy. You have to agree he has terrible looking hair himself, and I hear that poor baby Wilfred has inherited the wild hair gene, bless him! You might also notice my nails have made a comeback. I thought that I would paint them red (my fave colour) in order to support **Christian Aid Week**. I haven't been christened yet and was hoping that once the church reopens the new minister might like to perform the honours (what's she like by the way - I hear she is rather good?). I quite fancy the name Mad-donna, after the singer! But maybe not - you can just hear the crows squawking about that one already, well shoo to you too! Oh well, you can't please them all. Sorry I have to dash, spring is a busy time of the year for us scarecrows, and I have been told that lock-down doesn't exclude me from my duties. I will be putting in an appearance again soon. Meanwhile take care, keep safe. Love to you all.

[From Eileen Thorpe]

1971 Everton Cook Book to be re-written!

While sorting a cupboard, Lindsey Cook of Potton Road Everton came across this cookbook. I am sure a number of you will not only remember it but also have your recipe in pride of place!



We are looking to reprint the original, along with a new section featuring up-to-date recipes from the 2020 lockdown. The book gives us a map of the village – its likes and dislikes – and, as we see, many names of friends and neighbours and some who are no longer with us. Funds raised will go towards the upkeep of St. Mary's Everton-cum-Tetworth and Everton Parish Room.

Please contact Lindsay & Jane to add your recipe 07967 455223

CITIZENS ADVICE

We have been asked to share the following important information:

- Mid-Bedfordshire is the only Citizens Advice area in the region currently offering a telephone advice service. Calls, therefore, are now being accepted from all the surrounding areas.
 - For advice by telephone, call 01767 601368 or 01525 402742. Text: 07954 639574. Monday to Friday from 10am to 3pm. Texters will be asked to leave name and post code and state whether or not a voicemail message can be left when Citizens Advice calls back.
 - Comprehensive advice can be found on the Citizens Advice website.
 - On the Citizens Advice Mid-Bedfordshire website there is a form to complete to get email advice.
-

A plea from Melissa Scuse at Everton:

Interested in becoming an Everton sidesperson?

There are a large number of people that help to run a church, and as a new member of the Everton PCC, I've been able to see how everyone from Revd Hilary to the PCC and all our volunteers work hard to ensure that services run smoothly and the mission of St. Mary's is promoted across our community. I know that I wish I had more time to support the church, and one role you might not have already considered is becoming a sidesperson.

What is a sidesperson?

A sidesperson is primarily responsible for helping the church warden before, during and after services. Tasks include greeting members of the congregation, handing out hymn books and service sheets, and taking the collection. In Everton, Jonathan Kirkham kindly oversees a rota based on people's availability, with no minimum commitment to a specific number of Sundays. While we cannot be physically present in church at the moment it would be brilliant to add a few more people to our sidesperson rota.

There are also various other duties that you might like to consider volunteering for including organ playing, altar preparation and reading.

If you are interested in finding out more about becoming a sidesperson or any of the other volunteer roles listed, please contact PCC member Jane Butcher (janebutcher59@googlemail.com).

I know that I'm definitely looking forward to taking part in a number of these roles when the time comes but, in the meantime, I hope to see you (virtually) soon!

A beautiful poem sent in by Jan Cooper (with the author's permission)

MY COMFORT BLANKET (By Gill Spaul – April 2020) **Time for Reflection**

<p>Everyone needs a comfort blanket sometimes. Mine is woven from all the people in my life, From birth onwards: a basic core web of Parents, sister, relatives, Husband, children, grandchildren, and an Ever-growing family, plus valued friends.</p> <p>From the soft comfort of being swaddled as a baby, To the ongoing care and guiding, nurturing influences. Childhood friendships, learning experiences, Successes and failures, anxieties and growing confidence. Colleagues, neighbours, all weaving support in different ways.</p> <p>Some threads are almost invisible, like silk, but incredibly strong. Others are soft lambs wool, warm and comforting. Cotton strands form a practical background cloth, The warp and weft of everyday life, While some are a net, to catch me when I fall.</p>	<p>Many help make a shield, chain-mail armour against harm. And bright, colourful weaves create a beach-towel, Recalling happy memories of sun-baked, sandy holidays, Full of laughter and carefree fun. Music-filled al-fresco gatherings wrap a shawl Around chilly evening shoulders.</p> <p>Fine, lawn cottons become handkerchiefs to dry tears, And white bandage mesh soothes healing wounds. Occasional damage created by anger, snags or frictions Are now, mostly, lovingly darned, possibly becoming Stronger for the mending.</p> <p>My comfort blanket is a seamless, unseen cloak, Keeping me safe and cherished: It is the shirt on my back, The scarf on my head, The sail to keep me moving forward, and A constant source of strength, edged with love. All created by the wonderful people in my life. Thank you.</p>
--	--



Church finances

££££££££

The PCC's are very grateful to all those who have signed up to the Parish Giving Scheme, our new modern way of regular giving. We are very much hoping that people will be able to maintain their giving during these difficult times. If you do find yourself wanting to reduce your donations, you can contact the central office of the PGS. However, our income this year is going to be substantially reduced with the effects of the lockdown, on fund-raising, cash giving at services and hire of the hall. Any additional donations towards us meeting our costs this year, many of which like insurance for example, still continue, would be extremely gratefully received. Details of how to make additional donations available from the Treasurer.

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@aol.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