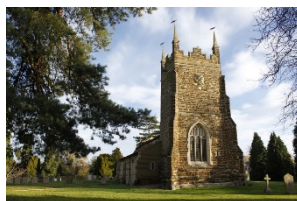


ST MARY'S GAMLINGAY, HATLEY ST GEORGE & ST MARY'S EVERTON



Weekly newsletter 22 May 2020



From Hilary:



We are pleased to announce that the refurbished noticeboard in Gamlingay has at last been completed and installed. Well done and thank you to all. This has been achieved with a generous donation for which we are very grateful.

Sunflower Challenge

The Sparks children, friends and families are growing sunflowers. Seeds will be planted on Sunday 24th May. We will be naming the pots and recording the progress of our plants, and there will be a little competition for the tallest, the biggest flower and any other criteria on which we agree. You are invited to join the party! Sarah can provide seeds or you could join in by sponsoring any or all of the growers.

Churchyard Matters

Everton and Gamlingay are in slightly different situations regarding the grounds around the churches, but there is opportunity to work together on conservation management of the grass. Hatley, like Everton, is under PCC responsibility including the open churchyard at St. Denis (but not the building). As St. Denis churchyard is a designated nature reserve, there is a voluntary management group that looks after it in practice. In Everton this is up to the PCC directly but in Gamlingay, where the churchyard is closed, the local council has upkeep responsibility and it is important that plans are made collaboratively. In both cases significant changes are under the control of the DAC and the Chancellor. In Everton there is a conservation plan for the churchyard and new burial ground adjacent. We intend to provide regular updates on our churchyards, including information on interesting wild flowers. Everton has some lovely meadow saxifrage doing particularly well this year as the grass has not been cut. Any pictures or offers of help are welcome. Here is one:



Church Wardens

Welcome and a big THANK YOU to the three new Benefice wardens and a special THANK YOU to Jane Butcher who is supporting Jane Gurney in her new role. Jane B. is an Assistant Warden by request of the PCC. Alec Hissett and Chris Miller in Gamlingay and Jane Gurney in Everton were sworn in by our Archdeacon Hugh over Zoom so they are now “official”. May God bless them in their tasks and us in our support of them.

Singing – just do it!

We have had some very positive feedback on our musical contributions to Zoom church. We are hugely blessed and very grateful to Nick Ingles for his expertise in editing people’s recordings, and to Andrew Smith for his accompaniments – all we need are the recordings of individual voices to make our Sunday hymn singing a great reflection of “us”. Singing is good for us and it will be a long time before we are able to be physically together again, so do have a go on your own. It doesn’t have to be perfect - the more of us there are, the less important any one voice is. All you need is a recording device – most smart phones, tablets and computers have these - then you play the accompaniment through earphones and sing along while recording your own voice. Send the recording to Nick, or someone who can send it to him, and he does the magic “stitching” for us.

Fundraising and Finance in Lockdown

We have agreed to meet (by Zoom) to think through how we can continue to raise funds for our churches. Both parishes rely on fundraising to make ends meet at the best of times but in the lockdown, without regular collections and envelopes in church, we are going to have to think and act creatively to keep our finances on a working footing. WELL DONE to all those who are giving direct through the bank, especially those who are doing so through the Parish Giving Scheme. We are really feeling the benefit of that regular giving. THANK YOU to all who are giving in this way. Please think about joining the scheme if you are not already on it. Contact Hilary, Ian or any of the Wardens for the paperwork to sign up. Meanwhile there are imaginative ideas already being put into action:

The 1971 Cookbook is to be rewritten. See Newsletter 2 for pictures and information about this.

St Mary’s Church, Everton-cum-Tetworth

We are delighted to have so many people coming together spiritually throughout the village to make a pennant for our lockdown bunting. Lots of people are dusting off their machines and giving it a go. If you would like to take part, please contact us on 07967445223. A number of letters are still available along with some blank spaces. *Jane Gurney.*

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

brenda.elcome@ymail.com

Phone: 650489

Jeanie Hemmings emailed to say how much she is enjoying the newsletter. She and Steve are finding plenty of time at the moment for bird watching and spotting the orchids up in the wood. She said “We have a tame female blackbird (we have named her Doris!) who comes to the back door to ask for sultanas!”

WINDOWS by Gill Spaul (*submitted by Jan Cooper with permission*)

Windows have always been important.
They protect us from the elements while letting in light.
Most buildings have them, from castles to cabins,
High rise flats to humble abodes.
We have 'windows of opportunity' and
Our eyes are said to be the 'windows to our soul'.

Walking round our village, we daily see
Ever-increasing window-dressings:
Rainbows and Teddies,
Love, hope and support for our wonderful NHS,
At this most difficult time in our collective lives.
Whether our windows are large or small,
Single- or double-glazed,
Plastic, metal or wood-framed,
They all can become symbols of connectivity,
From those inside, to those outside.

Some windows invite smiles, some deeper emotions,
Like the one, from a child to her Nanna,
We can't wait to hug you again, stay well.
The thinnest of glass walls – the clearest of messages,
The safest way relatives and friends can connect,
Until a better way can be found.



Valerie Miller has sent another lovely picture from her garden. She wonders:
"Is nature even more beautiful this year to make up for the misery of Covid or do I just have more time to notice?"

JUST FOR FUN! Do you remember pounds, shillings and pence? If so, this is for you!

A selection of questions from a longer '**Pre-Decimal Quiz**' sent in by Mervyn Lack (*full quiz available on request*).

Each answer is a term used to express an old monetary value. What is the term and what was the value?

Answers next week.

1. A person who works with animal hides?
2. Worn by the Queen?
3. Sounds like a singer e.g. Pavarotti?
4. A pigless pet?
5. A small horse?
6. Monkhouse, Monk or Mortimer?



The Hatleys in lockdown. *(Reflections from Penny Hewlett)*

Life in Hatleys during the last several weeks has certainly proved that the community spirit is alive and well. Those of us who are 'old and vulnerable' have been contacted by many kind people with offers to help with shopping, errands, loneliness etc. We have been well cared for – thank you everyone. The road through Hatley St. George was initially much quieter which was great (busier now) but farm traffic was very active initially with 'catch up' on the land after a very wet spell (easily forgotten now). This, at least, made life seem more normal as we all adjusted to our new way of life. There were less cars but many more cyclists and walkers taking advantage of the fine weather and not being at work. Many have stopped in the Churchyard opposite our house to sit, picnic or just gaze – good to see that the Churchyard has been appreciated while the Church has had to be locked. The footpaths have been much busier but there is plenty of room to socially distance. Walking round the Hatley Estate this spring has been particularly beautiful – maybe the weather – clear blue skies, sun and wonderful colours with the trees, hedges and flowers all coming out. The cowslips seemed particularly abundant this year as were the bluebells and celandines in Buff Wood. On a recent walk I spotted (with binoculars) a vixen with cubs, five hares in one field and then a muntjac jumped across the path just in front of me. Later that week I saw a badger out in broad day light which seemed strange. Sadly no swallows this year at Church Farm which is unusual and we have not heard the cuckoo here but despite all it has been a glorious and memorable Spring.

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	cfm55@btinternet.com	650779
Valerie Miller , ALM Pastoral	vjm55@btinternet.com	650779
Dawn Martin , Gamlingay/Hatley PCC Secretary	dawnbeckymartin@aol.com	652832
Jane Gurney , Everton Churchwarden		
Ann Naseby , Everton PCC Secretary	annpnaseby@btinternet.com	
Ian Parker , Treasurer to both PCCs	iangparker@hotmail.com	652992
Jane Butcher , Everton Assistant Churchwarden	jane.butcher59@googlemail.com	680105