

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



## Weekly newsletter 7 August 2020



### *From Hilary:*

#### **Dear Church Family and Friends,**

We have now achieved two Wednesday morning communion services in St Mary's, Gamlingay which have shown us the limitations of our internet connections there but have been appreciated by the people who attended. The first week was not good for those at home; this time was a little better. We will be doing the same next week. Do join on zoom if you can so that we can test the system with a larger 'on-line' congregation. A try-out in Everton is planned for this week.

The intention is to broadcast services from all the churches once we return to regular use of the buildings in September - that is assuming we are able to return as planned on the 20<sup>th</sup> and that we can sort out the necessary technology. We need people in both churches to help us operate the technology once it is set up, so do get in touch if you are such a person, or you know someone else who might help. Nick is doing a great job but won't be able to cover every service every week.

It amazes me how exhausting the two Wednesday services have felt. I hope it gets easier as we all become more familiar with procedure. Possibly after a break and with cooler Autumn weather things may also feel more comfortable. However, we will all be seeking to 'keep our balance' in times of change and uncertainty. I pray that we can keep our sense of proportion and keep up kindly connections as the People of God - it will not be all plain sailing as pressures fluctuate. Please do give me the benefit of the doubt when you think I might be behaving less than perfectly and I will try and do the same for everyone else.

I am looking for feedback on my use of a mask when leading worship. The requirement is clear for the congregation (unless various criteria apply to any individual) however it is less clear for anyone presiding at the service (distanced 5 metres or more) so it is important to me to know what you think.

#### **Sound System**

Since my arrival 2 years ago Tony Caudle, now moved from the village, has been enormously generous with his time and expertise in supporting the sound system at Gamlingay. The system is many years old and needs attention. Tony's move has coincided with our being excluded from church buildings. However, now we are back we find that what previously might have been thought a luxury in our rural setting, has become something of a requirement so we are most grateful for the visit this week of a professional sound engineer, friend of one of our church members, who will be kindly advising us concerning the provision of technical support for our worship and other building-based activities into the coming years.

## Known Dates for the coming week

### August

Sunday 9th	9.30am Zoom Benefice All Age service (Communion)
Monday 10th	11am Wardens' meeting
Tuesday 11th	10.30am Bible Study and 4.00pm families' Zoom
Wednesday 12th	9.30am Holy Communion /Eucharist at Gamlingay
Thursday 13th	8.00am open zoom with Hilary 9.00am compline
Sunday 16th	9.30 Zoom Benefice All Age service (Communion)

**Rectory Sunflowers:** How are yours doing? Mine haven't had the food and water they might have had – all shapes and sizes! Here are three of the best.....



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## **From Mark and Mia Johnson:**

Since being confirmed into the St. Mary's family last year (May 2019), we have enjoyed a rather eventful year as a family. As many of you know, we relocated to Finnish Lapland (Mia's home region) in July 2019, a move that has provided a number of challenges as well as some great opportunities. The long dark midwinter nights, the -30C(!) temperatures and the many months away from our friends and Mark's family in the UK have taken some getting used to. However, we are loving the snow, regularly bump into reindeer on our walks in the forests, and the nature in the region helps give us some valuable time and space to



appreciate the simple things in life. This being said, we still feel very attached to Gamlingay, its people and the church, and we absolutely loved visiting last month. Whilst we regret that we could not see everyone, we were so grateful to spend a lovely afternoon with Hilary and Norman at the vicarage, and also enjoyed seeing old friends at the trial communion service last week. It was also a blessing to spend so much time with Mark's parents Carol and Johnny, who took such good care of Isla during our stay despite being run absolutely ragged by the little rascal! We are now back in Finland, with another icy winter just around the corner. However, we will be sure to join you for more services via Zoom in the near future. See you all soon!

Lots of love,  
Mark, Mia and Isla xxx

### **Melissa writes from Everton:**

During this challenging time when we can't fundraise in person, St Mary's in Everton has followed StMtV in Gamlingay in registering with 'easyfundraising', which means you can now raise free donations for St Mary's Everton when you shop online.

Easyfundraising has over 4,000 shops and sites which will donate to us at no extra cost to yourself, including lots of big name retailers like John Lewis, Argos, Uswitch, eBay, M&S, Just Eat, Now TV, Domino's Pizza and Audible. All you have to do is sign up to support us using the link below. Then every time you shop online, go through the easyfundraising website or App and we'll receive a % of your spend as a free donation, at no cost to you or us.

We really need all the help we can get at the moment and any funds we raise will make a big difference to us, so we'd really appreciate it if you could take a moment to sign up and support us. You can find our easyfundraising page at

[https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stmaryschurcheverton/?utm\\_campaign=raise-more&utm\\_content=c19-e1](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stmaryschurcheverton/?utm_campaign=raise-more&utm_content=c19-e1).

### ***The latest news from our East Hatley wildlife correspondent!***

*(Received on Monday evening)*

A beautiful evening, no wildlife to report, just four mini-gliders and a hot air balloon passing above my field. The sun will be setting soon but the height they are at should give them fantastic views for another hour or so.

*A lovely peaceful picture – thank you Mervyn!*

## **Elcome Sunflowers :**



In spite of going in late and being seriously deprived of water for a while, our church sunflowers seem to be doing quite well and are beginning to form flower heads. Has anyone got one in bloom yet?



*The sunflowers are outside the greenhouse, the tomatoes inside!*

***A little fun for those of you that enjoy puzzles.....***

Can you solve these riddles? *(Answers next week).*

1. Where does today come before yesterday?
2. This belongs to you but everyone else uses it. What is it?
3. You see a boat filled with people. It has not sunk but when you look again you don't see a single person on the boat. Why?
4. What gets wet as it dries?
5. What is seen in the middle of March and April that cannot be seen at the beginning or end of either month?
6. A man stands on one side of a river, his dog on the other side. The man calls his dog who immediately crosses the river without getting wet and without using a bridge or a boat. How did the dog do it?
7. Samuel was out for a walk when it started to rain. He had no umbrella and no hat. His clothes got soaked but not a single hair on his head got wet. Why?
8. What can you hold in your left hand but not your right?

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

**Brenda.elcome@ymail.com or phone 650489**

## Finally, a reminder of some key contact details:

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