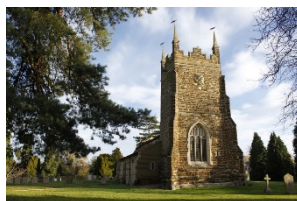


# ST MARY'S GAMLINGAY, HATLEY ST GEORGE & ST MARY'S EVERTON



## Weekly newsletter 15 May 2020



### *From Hilary:*

Dear Friends

The change to church-in-lockdown instructions now allow me into the churches (on my own, and only me, or a designated other, not together and not one after the other). Benefice Wardens and I have discussed how that can help us all feel a bit more connected with our churches.

We will continue with Zoom worship until July at the very earliest when we might possibly be allowed to open churches. In the intervening time I will be doing what I can to 'broadcast' from inside the buildings. At the very least I can record prayer time and a walk round internally. There is already a short recording from Everton available, as I could legitimately visit on my way home from a funeral in Sandy. There will be others for the other buildings in due course.

Here are a couple of pictures from inside Everton St Mary's on Tuesday this week:



VE day made this kneeler image particularly noticeable and appropriate

The side altar window at Everton depicts an Apostle, can you identify which?



### **Yet More Information on Progress with the Alarm for the Roof**

An NCPI engineer visited last Thursday, thank you John B for your help. A location for the recording box and details of fixings have been established, so when we receive details of what's to be done we can apply for permission to install. All good!

## VE Day Memories

It has been so interesting to read or listen to the memories of the people who remember VE day from their youth or childhood. I have a file of all those I've been given, and will add anything more, including pictures. On Friday several of our church members enjoyed a service at 10am, for which Adrian prepared a video with me. In it we reflected on the war and our present circumstances from a Christian perspective. The video is on YouTube on the Baptist church page at <https://youtu.be/58SWLskuCfQ>



Norman and I had a lovely tea, shared with neighbours across the green and Norma Hood briefly as she passed us on her exercise. A strange 'street party' but very tasty!



## CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 10<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> MAY

**It's not too late – you can still donate!**

### By cheque:

Christian Aid  
Data Solution Centre  
Manton Wood Enterprise Park  
Worksop. S80 2RT

**Online :** [caweek.org](http://caweek.org)

**By phone :** 08080 006 006  
020 7523 2269

If you have donated already – **THANK YOU!** Otherwise please be inspired by the item below:

### **Sarah Titmus tells us how proud she is of her children.....**

Bella, Holly and Harry decided to do a small toy sale. They sorted through a few things (with a little help from Mummy!) and advertised them for sale on Facebook. They have so far raised £100 of which they are donating £60 to **Christian Aid** and putting the other £40 into their piggy banks as holiday money. **What a wonderful thing to do and what an inspiration that should be for the rest of us. Thank you so much Sarah and your wonderful children. And we hope it won't be too long before you can all have that holiday!**

### **Some welcome good news from Lindy Gorton:**

I am sure all those who knew and loved Brenda Cole would like to know that I had a lovely chat with her last week. She picked up the phone herself, which surprised me, and she sounded so happy and joyous. We had a good, long and lucid talk. She has been a little confused of late but not at all this time.

Trying to be optimistic, and looking on our blessings, I am enjoying the lack of planes, trains, cars and helicopter noise! Birds and bees are so much better. Summer must be with us as the swifts arrived this week.

*Lindy.*

**We humans might be living very restricted lives at the moment but the natural world is enjoying rather more freedom. Thank you to Mervyn Lack for sending this:**

I live in East Hatley and we regularly see up to thirty deer, including several white ones, running or grazing in the field at the back of our house. They are very "herd-like", if one runs they all run. They often cross the main road, only to turn round and come back again, causing chaos for the road users. They are beautiful creatures and give much pleasure when we see them in the field. You can be watching them one minute and then they magically disappear as they melt into the trees at the edge of the field.

Another creature we see, but less frequently, is the red kite, a truly stunning bird, amazingly large and majestic.



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**A story from Philippa Smalls about some rather unwelcome visitors!**



### **Lockdown Rat**

Once upon a time, during the first few weeks of a national lockdown, a friendly brown rat appeared, hoovering up the birdseed flicked out of the feeders by a wonderful variety of hungry birds. As she was a small rat, kept herself to herself and didn't bother the ground feeder birds, she was allowed to stay even when she tried to climb up the trellis to reach the suet balls. To deter her, vaseline was plastered all over the trellis frame and she got the message and stayed on the ground. Then one day she became more territorial and started chasing off the ground-feeders including the pigeons (no bad thing because, much like one rat, one pigeon is enough and two pigeons mean more pigeons). Then she disappeared for a couple of days, and suddenly there were two babies with her (oh no! three babies). A tribe could not be tolerated....so the rat-catcher (why is he called a rat-catcher when he is really a rat poisoner?) came and cheerfully put down 4 very visible black boxes, after hunting unsuccessfully for a burrow (isn't that what rabbits go down?) and even chasing one of the babies with what looked like a giant spoon (no idea what he hoped to do with that). He was asked if the rodents would suffer and said no, they would just slow down (and eventually fail to wake up presumably). Not a very satisfactory answer but a tribe of rats was not to be considered either.

Two days later one teenage rat and his much younger sibling appeared, found no food, and they too disappeared. It was hoped that Mum had cleverly led her family away, but the ratman came back 10 days later, found that three of the poisons in the boxes had been eaten and the other one had been chewed. No sign of any bodies however and even the dog had not found any trace of rat smells. A mystery...one can only hope they died peacefully, and SOMEWHERE ELSE.

The birds are back, but no matter how much they search, the suet is still locked away and probably will be for some time to come.

**Linda Bycroft** says she found comfort, at a time when we need to think to the future and not dwell too much on what is happening just now, in the words of this poem which appeared in the National Trust summer magazine:

*In these uncertain times  
we know you might feel unsure....  
But flowers still grow, birds still sing  
and waves still sweep the shore.*

*And with the rising  
and setting of the sun,  
Nature reminds us all  
that brighter days will come.*

Finally, a reminder of some key contact details:

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

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