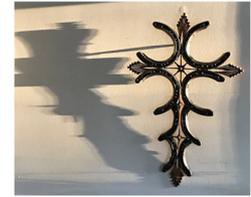


ST MARY'S GAMLINGAY, HATLEY ST GEORGE & ST MARY'S EVERTON



Weekly newsletter 29 May 2020



From Hilary:

Dear People,

We are approaching Pentecost, which we will be celebrating this Sunday (31st, the last Sunday in May). Being a fifth Sunday, this would probably have been a Benefice service although, as it is a major festival, we might have thought we should be in all the churches. It is a shame not to be allowed in our buildings at the moment, but at least we don't have to think about that particular issue and many of us can be together across the Benefice. We have the added benefit of all being able to see the children of our families gathered and included by the miracles of modern technology. So, we will be celebrating the Birthday of the Church together in a variety of ways by Zoom. Feel free to have a birthday celebration ready for after church - cake, coffee, even a bottle of fizz if you are that way inclined! I am going to try using 'break out rooms' which should make it easier to speak to one another than when we are in one large group.

I have had several positive comments about the sequence Nick put together for me to go with the Hallelujah Chorus on Sunday. If you would like to have us include pictures that mean something to you, please send them in. This week we are particularly thinking of a 'Glory' theme. Likewise, our list of favourite hymns is growing (Norman is thinking of more almost daily!). Do send yours in if you have not done so already. Feel free to add any other favourite music too - giving God glory does not only mean singing hymns, nor is glorious music limited to any particular style.

Some of us have been using the time to pray 'Thy Kingdom Come' with special intensity during the 10 days since Ascension. A series of daily reflections on the Lord's prayer has been circulated and can be used at any time. Do get in touch if you would like to cover any particular topic in what now becomes 'ordinary time'. The book of Acts which we have been following during the Easter season in our lectionary readings, is one idea that has come out of our weekly Tuesday Bible meetings.

This week and next the usual 'lockdown' weekly events continue. The zoom meetings are regular repeats now, so the usual attenders have that link to re-use. Do make contact, asking for the link, if you would like to join us for any of the following: Tuesday Bible Study 10.30am; Wednesday Communion 9.30am; Thursday Bible Question and Reflection Time 8pm-ish, after the NHS applause, followed by Compline at 9pm

Sunday service will continue to be scheduled week by week. Please ask if you want to join.

Christian Aid Quiz

Thank you, Eileen, for encouraging this. I enjoyed putting the questions together and hope the people who joined it and also took part in the Gamlingay Lockdown Quiz, benefitted from seeing some of the questions appear again! Well done Benita who had the highest score, and well done everyone for taking part - fun had by all I think. The Disney questions allowed the children to give the adults help for one round and it has been nice to learn how much people enjoyed taking part. I have received a donation of £10 for the quiz. If anyone else would like to add a monetary donation for Christian Aid, drop it in at the Rectory and I will forward it all on together next week.

Time Off

I have been commiserating with several people who are not doing what they would have liked to do for a break and/or have had to abandon planned trips away this half term and in the Summer. So many people are affected in this way and it is distressing, especially when children are involved. I was very struck on catching a snatch of TV news (which I'm trying to avoid bingeing on, as it is so not good for my health and well-being!) with some great advice from an 80 year old disabled lady who has been 'dancing' on TikTok.- Her Granddaughter got her set up, recorded her, and posted the pictures which have now gone all over the world. This dear lady expressed amazement and confusion, being totally unfamiliar with the technology. But what struck me was her positive attitude. She was saying how you had to look at the good things and not just be depressed about the negatives which you couldn't do anything about anyway. That's easier said than done, but it set me thinking. I've not had a break since just after Christmas when we went to Ireland, which was lovely but not restful! I am, therefore, going to take some time off even though I can't get away - at least 10 days to include a Sunday. So, I need to know from people whether, in my absence, their preference would be a link to a communion service in another parish or a non-eucharistic service on our usual zoom. I can set it up so people can join without me for the usual sort of service, but without communion from my study. Please let me or the Wardens know which you would prefer.

LOCKDOWN LOCKS LAMENT by Gill Spaul. (We can all empathise with this one!)

Since lockdown, hair's a problem:
My usual six-week trim
Has all gone by the wayside and
My locks are looking grim!

The Barbershop's not open,
It's running just by zooms,
With scissors, combs and brushes
Being shoved in breakout rooms.

It's really quite appalling,
Indeed, what can I do?
My hair's so long I have to
Double-dose when I shampoo.

If D.I.Y's the answer,
I could start a new career,
With "Covid Cut", Corona Chop"
The perfect way to steer.

Results could be dramatic,
Causing onlookers to scoff
So, if it all goes pear-shaped,
I might shave the whole lot off!



Answers to last week's Pre-Decimal Quiz:

(Many apologies to anyone who did not receive the emailed correction sent out on Monday. Question No.6 should have read "Monkhouse, Hope and Mortimer". The error occurred in the re-typing – mea culpa! Brenda)

1. Tanner (Sixpence)
2. Crown (Five shillings)
3. Tenner (Ten pounds)
4. Guinea (Twenty-one shillings)
5. Pony (Twenty-five pounds)
6. Bob (One shilling)

Everton Church Fundraising

This week Hilary collected four trays of happy-looking geraniums from Barbara, who had originally said she would be unable to provide what had become her 'usual' church fund-raiser. Here is what she says.

"I have been growing plants to sell at the May coffee mornings now for a number of years. I had not intended to do so this year, but managed to source supplies when I realised that I would have to be locked down through shielding and I have been grateful to have something to focus on!! I approached a few of my 'regulars' and am pleased to confirm that I will be passing a total of £235 for church funds to Dick Edwards to bank.' The 'plants sale' raised £191 but a few customers gave me extra money for the church to help with finances in the current closure and also the amount has been rounded up so that Dick does not have to deal with any coins!!"

Thank you Barbara!



Mary Booth – R.I.P.

With great sadness we heard that Mary, a much-loved member of our church family, had died. Her funeral will take place on Friday 29th May at Gamlingay Cemetery. She had been diagnosed with cancer and was being cared for by her family at home where she was able to stay, by her own wish, until the end. Two words which have been used by several of her friends, when asked for memories, are 'caring' and 'generous'. Her friend Jean, who will miss her greatly, says "she was such a nice person and always ready to help". Anne recalls how, when she heard that the microwave oven in the church hall had packed up, she immediately bought and donated a new one. Hilary adds that "she was someone of real faith, often in church on Sunday and encouraging to family to join in". Hilary also experienced Mary's generosity and gives thanks for having known her.

Mary was, of course, a talented artist and delighted in sharing her passion with those who attended her painting group. Valerie owns two of her paintings (see below) which she loves. The train is "The Toy Train Shimla". Jean tells us that Mary loved to travel and both she and Valerie had, on different occasions, travelled on this train when visiting India. Rest in peace, Mary. Your paintings will continue to give your friends pleasure and will serve to keep you in their hearts and minds.



The yeast of lockdown kindness!

We make all our own bread but a couple of weeks into lockdown we were running very short of yeast. Various kind friends who were shopping for us trawled the local stores in vain. Yeast (together with all forms of flour) it seemed was suddenly high on everybody's list of necessities and had become virtually unobtainable. Benita (friend, neighbour and shopper) was chatting online with a friend in Cornwall and, in passing, mentioned our yeasty problem. A few days later there was Benita, on our doorstep, handing over a packet of yeast purchased in Cornwall and posted by her lovely friend. What a wonderful act of 'lockdown kindness' from a total stranger! Thank you Benita and friend for not only raising our bread but also our spirits!

Brenda and David Elcome

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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