

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



Weekly newsletter 12 June 2020



From Hilary:

Dear People,

(Hilary is, hopefully, recharging her batteries and having a well-deserved break at the moment, but before she 'signed out' she sent her newsletter material for this week and next.)

Churches to re-open?

The government has announced that churches can open for private prayer ONLY (not public worship) from June 15th. Preparations are being made to enable this to happen safely. However, because I am on leave and discussion time is short, and because we need to think carefully and include the whole Benefice PCC in the decision making, our buildings will definitely not return to their patterns of opening until AT LEAST June 22nd. Thereafter, information will be disseminated via social media, this newsletter and on noticeboards.

Please be aware we are doing our best and do support the Parish Priest and Wardens in what is decided, both by your private and public comments. Be aware that the National Church, in consultation with Government, is issuing guidelines for the whole Church of England. We will continue to abide by these, whatever we may think about our local situation. There is very little likelihood of public worship in Church with singing and communion before late Autumn at the earliest, although some outdoor activities may well be possible - subject, as they ever will be, to the vagaries of our English weather! We are expecting an announcement about small weddings and funerals in Church, but again don't expect too much too soon.

What makes a Good Church Service?

Ever since I came to the Benefice, two years ago in August, the thought that service patterns might need to be reviewed was there. Having given things a few months, in which what seemed logical and fine to many but was for me difficult to remember and sometimes exhausting, the PCCs agreed a process by which we might review our worship offering. That review has simply not happened, at least in part because of the distraction of the Gamlingay lead theft. The present situation, where we have been worshipping remotely as a Benefice (unlikely to change back to where we were before Covid-19 struck, and certainly not soon) gives us an opportunity to shape the 'new norm'. So here is advanced warning to think about what works for you and why. We have, for instance, found that the families with children have felt much more part of the services in Zoom than they did in church. At the same time many others have felt a surge of emotion for the familiar buildings as we have looked at them on screen. We shall, of course, be consulting over any changes, and I know that nothing will be right for everyone, but it is important that our worship is as widely accessible as possible. Part of the process of serving a community is enabling as many people as possible to worship and find God. It is indeed for that reason that I think church buildings are important - not as objects of worship, but as a means to worship (though be aware that there are those for whom the same building is a barrier!). The invisible eternal God, made known in Jesus and at work through the Holy Spirit, is the object of our worship as well as the means of our being. The fact of Jesus' life and ministry, death and resurrection is what gives me connection between that God and the 'real world'. It is our task as Disciples of Christ, individually and as a group, to work out what it is that makes God known to us and to people around us and act on it. Like a midwife supporting a birth but not producing the baby, my task is to help make that possible.

“Be Prepared”!

Keeping the Girl Guides ‘together’ during lockdown *(Benita Scott)*

On Wednesday 11th March, 2nd Gamlingay Guides met as usual and learnt how to bandage a wound through some fun activities. None of us had any idea, then, that that would be the last time we would meet face to face for goodness knows how long.

The following week, before we went into lockdown, Girlguiding instructed UK Guiding units to stop all activities. To begin with we thought it might be for a few weeks so we, as leaders, tried to think of some fun things the girls could do whilst at home to engage them and keep them interested. We set them an Easter challenge to create something on an Easter theme and we asked them to decorate their windows with rainbows or other fun pictures. We set a treasure hunt for the girls to do during their hour’s exercise – they had to find the location of cards hidden around the village and those who completed it received a certificate and some sweets! We also sent girls the syllabus of a badge called the Stay Connected Challenge, and several of them have been working towards it by sewing badges on their camp blanket, making meals for elderly neighbours and writing to Guiding penfriends. One Guide saw a sign in an elderly couple’s window asking for someone to make them a rainbow, and she painted them a wonderful one on canvas, which they are now proudly displaying.

After a few weeks though, we decided that we really wanted to do a bit more, so we have begun using Zoom to hold a weekly Guide “meeting”. We have now held three meetings. It was so lovely to see the girls the first time – we hadn’t seen them for ten weeks! Not all the girls come to every meeting but, so far, every Guide except two has been to at least one of the meetings, which is great. We have had a scavenger hunt around their houses, played bingo and held a virtual pet show where the girls showed everyone their pet and told us about them. This week, the girls will be creating characters from wooden spoons! Their finished creations will be displayed at the end of Charnocks Close – we hope it will make everyone smile as they walk past! Future plans for meetings include making microwave mug cakes, dressing up as superheroes, playing more silly games and, hopefully, some kind of virtual sleepover.

Girlguiding members are known for being resourceful – our motto is ‘Be Prepared’ – and recently we have certainly had to be!

Lockdown activities :

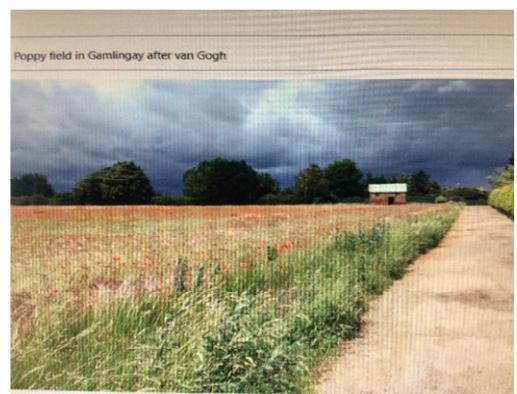
Painting

Christine Oliva has been enjoying having the time to do some painting. This lovely one of Gamlingay church was done from a photo (minus the road sign!) taken on 2nd February this year.



Walking

Maureen has been enjoying her walks and took this photo (after van Gogh!) of a glorious field of poppies near Gamlingay.



CONGRATULATIONS!

Sarah Witchett

90th Birthday - Sunday 14th June



Sarah has been in hospital for a while, but the good news is that she is now home again and will be able to enjoy suitably distanced visits from her family and friends on this very special occasion. We all send our love and best wishes – many of us will be thinking of you on Sunday, Sarah, and perhaps raising a celebratory glass in your honour!

Have a very Happy Birthday!

Jigsaw Therapy? *(Brenda and David Elcome)*

No doubt many people have been turning to the therapeutic value of jigsaw puzzles over recent weeks. The 'therapeutic' element was, however, in some doubt where this one below was concerned! It was kindly lent to us by Ros and Alec (after they had successfully completed it of course). We could not possibly lose face by failing to complete it ourselves but it was hugely challenging and we came very close to giving up on several occasions. We finally reached a point where we had six pieces left and six holes to fill but, horror of horrors, they didn't match! It was then a case of working out which of the 1,500 (minus 6) pieces were in the wrong place. As you can see we finally did it but now need therapy to get over the stress!



Answers to last week's 'Just for Fun':

Down in the dumps

D S
U P
 M

One in a million

1000one000

Time after time

TIME 2 pm

Overseas Aid

AID
CCC

Income Tax

C O tax M E

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

Brenda.elcome@gmail.com or phone 650489

A mental challenge from Chris Miller!

(He has the solution which he will, hopefully, let us have for next week.)

There are 5 girls in a long row. Each girl has a favourite chocolate bar, colour, pet, hobby, and would like to go on a certain holiday. All the girls like different things. Your task is to solve the following clues and decide:

Who owns the crocodile?

- Jo likes to eat Wispa Bars
- The person with the hamster likes swimming
- Hannah eats Dairy Milk
- Jessica is immediately to the left of Georgina
- Lucy is on the extreme left
- The person on the extreme right likes swimming
- The person who eats Milky Bars owns a horse
- The person in the middle eats Dairy Milk
- Jessica likes green
- The person on the left of the middle wants to go to Tobago
- The person who wants to go to the Maldives likes lilac
- The person who likes Wispa Bars sits next to the person who wants to go to Florida
- The person who likes pink wants to go to Florida
- The person who sits on the extreme left likes lilac
- The girl who likes blue owns a puppy
- The person who likes skiing sits next to the person who has a hamster
- The girl on the right of the girl who likes tennis likes horse riding
- The girl next to the girl who likes Milky Bars likes Mars Bars
- The girl who likes purple wants to go to Canada
- The girl who likes Crunchie owns a rabbit
- The girl who likes skiing sits next to the girl who goes ten-pin bowling
- Jessica wants to go to Australia

Who owns the crocodile?

Finally, a reminder of some key contact details:

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