

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



Weekly newsletter 19 June 2020



From Hilary:

PCCs

The Benefice PCCs are meeting together, by Zoom, on Monday (June 22nd), immediately followed by Everton's separate meeting. Gamlingay PCC will have a dedicated meeting the following evening - Tuesday 23rd June. Please support your PCC members as we all work to meet the changing situation.

Fundraising

One significant issue, on which the PCCs will be working, is thinking creatively about fund-raising. This is something which **can** take still place (although we know there are a lot of things that can't). As things stand, those who give regularly through the Parish Giving Scheme, or directly to the bank in any other way, are carrying the financial burden of maintaining our churches. We will be writing out to encourage direct giving, but also please pass on any ideas you may have (particularly any you can facilitate yourself) to a member of the PCC. It would be good to be able to put a Summer and Autumn programme together.

Church Cleaning

As we prepare to open our church buildings for private prayer it is necessary to re-instate church cleaning. At St. Mary's Church in Gamlingay we have had a rota of volunteers who have carried out this task on a weekly basis. Unfortunately, some of these people are now unable to resume, so we are looking for additional help. The cleaning generally comprises dusting and vacuuming throughout the building, although in the short term it should only be the nave area that will have visitors. You will be in pairs and can arrange a time and day to suit you both.

If you feel you would be interested in volunteering please contact one of the churchwardens: Alec on 650052 or Chris on 650779.



Vera Decker R.I.P.

Many of you will have been sad to hear that Vera died on Sunday 14th June. She had been in hospital for a long time but was recently transferred to a Nursing Home in Bedford where, thankfully, her daughter was able to be with her at the end. In next week's newsletter it would be lovely to share some memories of Vera from those who knew and loved her. If you would like to contribute please send a few words by next Tuesday to be incorporated into a short tribute.

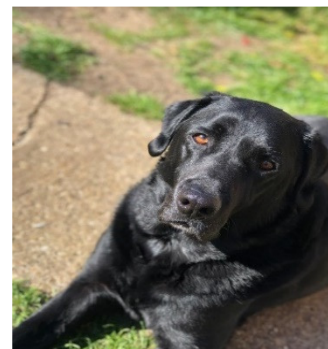
Children in Lockdown – *an uplifting account from Sarah Titmus and family.....*

When the schools closed on March 20th it was very difficult for the children to understand why they couldn't go to school any more and why they couldn't see their friends or family. Having this big, scary virus around was very worrying for them and hearing about it on the TV every day made it worse. We decided to stop watching updates until they were in bed in the evenings as they didn't need that extra concern on top of a massive change of lifestyle. We concentrated on our home schooling and on the joys of us all being at home together. The children have taken so well to home schooling and although we do get the odd day when it is all a bit too much for us, overall it has been a blessing. Bella has many struggles at school both academically and socially, and through home schooling I have been able to support her with her work in a way that the school has not. In fact, we have been getting on so well we have decided to continue home educating, at least for the time being. This pandemic has upturned so many lives but we have managed to take a positive from a terrible situation. Although Daddy has been working even harder than usual (if that's at all possible) as the farm shop has gone above and beyond to support the local community, I have loved having my children at home with me and realised how much of their lives are spent away from me at school.

The children have enjoyed baking and have made so many different recipes. I think their favourite, so far, is banana bread. We've gone for walks around our beautiful home in Hatley St. George with our dog Logan and the garden has never looked so good. Daddy managed to build us a patio a few weeks back and, as if all that wasn't enough, our cat Nala had kittens and our other cat, Bhindi, looks like she's fit to burst any minute now with her kittens (note to self, we should have got them spayed!). We haven't seen Yai Yai (Nanny in Greek) and Pops for 12 weeks now, and that's been so hard for the children and my parents, but we continue to pray all will be well soon and we can see them again. We have enjoyed our church zoom and feel so blessed that we are still able to worship each week even if it is over a computer, and being able to see everyone's faces has been such a comfort. Who knows how long this situation will continue but, for now, we shall continue to enjoy our little adventures together.



The thriving vegetable patch



Logan relaxing in the sun!

This week's 'Just for fun!' *(Adapted from a quiz compiled by Mervyn Lack)*

Can you match the birds to their collective nouns?

- | | |
|---------------------------|-------------|
| 1. A Parliament of | Goldfinches |
| 2. A descent of | Swallows |
| 3. An exultation of | Ravens |
| 4. A wisdom of | Crows |
| 5. A murmuration of | Rooks |
| 6. A charm of | Skylarks |
| 7. An unkindness of | Buzzards |
| 8. A murder of | Owls |
| 9. A swoop of | Woodpeckers |
| 10. A wake of | Starlings |

££££££

Do you have Treasuring skills?

££££££

We are most fortunate in our Treasurer, Ian Parker, who currently holds the post for both parishes in the Benefice. His work is much appreciated. Ian has served as Treasurer for 8 years but has now formally given notice that this year will be his last. He has indicated that he will still be willing to offer accounting assistance to the PCCs but others in the parishes will be required to take on the roles and responsibilities of Treasurer. If no one is appointed, in either parish, then it falls to the churchwardens, who do more than enough already, to assume the role. Gamlingay will also be looking to appoint new Church Wardens next year so there is no scope for complacency or assuming that Chris and Alec will cope.

This sort of discussion often takes place in a panic just before an APCM (*Annual Parochial Church Meeting*) so Ian is urging us to think about it now and be prepared. He is offering to help anyone who might be willing to take on the role to understand what is involved and will be happy to give ongoing support and advice. Please give serious thought to whether you, or anyone you know, might be able to offer this vital service to the churches (preferably one for each parish) and let Hilary, one of the Church Wardens or Ian know as soon as possible so that work on the transition can commence.

Sometimes people say they will go and then change their minds. That is not going to be case this time. Please help, if you possibly can, so that we do not put unfair pressure on Ian who is enormously conscientious in his caring as well as so able and efficient at what he does.

Sunflower update from Hilary.....

My sunflowers are coming along apace.

Planting the seeds all at the same time has been

interesting, as they are germinating very differently.

Two in the same pot and one in another pictured here.

(Photo taken nearly two weeks ago.)



The race is on!

and from Ros and Alec.....

These are now recovering having been nibbled

by a mollusc or maybe a hungry caterpillar!



Who owns the crocodile? - Solution

	Lucy	Jo	Hannah	Jessica	Georgina
Chocolate	Crunchie	Wispa	Dairy Milk	Milky Bars	Mars Bars
Colour	Lilac	Blue	Pink	Green	Purple
Pet	Rabbit	Puppy	Crocodile	Horse	Hamster
Hobby	Tennis	Horse Riding	10 Pin Bowling	Skiing	Swimming
Holiday	Maldives	Tobago	Florida	Australia	Canada

Well done if you got it 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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Chris Miller , LLM/Reader, Gamlingay/Hatley Churchwarden	cfm55@btinternet.com	650779
Valerie Miller , ALM Pastoral	vjm55@btinternet.com	650779
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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