

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



## Weekly newsletter 26 June 2020



### *From Hilary:*

Dear People,

On Monday the PCCs approved the preparations for the opening of our churches for private prayer so, by the time you read this, you will be able to go into the churches on your own. If you do, please observe the instructions and use the facilities we have provided. **Gamlingay church will be open every day from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For the time being, Everton church will be open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday - Monday and Hatley St. George can be opened by arrangement. There will be notices in church and on social media.**

We have managed to make this happen just as further, somewhat vague, announcements have been made about limited permissions for services. Please, let's be patient and encourage one another as we wait for more detail. When we have the detail it can be translated into action appropriate to our circumstances. We must recognise that we are by no means 'over' this health crisis and that we have to 'do as we are told' - which takes longer than any of us would like.

I am keen to manage expectations, as it is very unlikely that we shall be giving communion in church in the near future. This grieves me, as I know it does many of you. I know anger is part of grief so if you want to have a rant, do so - we all share in that need. But do let us also move on, use the energy generated for good and do what we can with a good grace.

I would like to pay tribute to the people who have worked with me 'behind the scenes' (Wardens and others) to make sure we are meeting our obligations as we make access to our buildings possible. These are challenging times for everyone. What a blessing the encouragers are! We all want to be back together but those of us who have to meet the guidelines and instructions (not all of which are made public) have a lot to do to make that happen - even when we do have permission.

May the God we know in Jesus Christ be with us and bless us as we journey on together.

*Hilary*

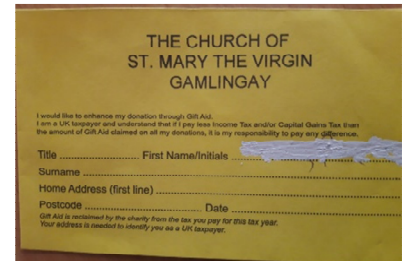
### **News from Everton :** *(Jane Butcher)*

The 'Sale of Jams and Chutneys' at Manor Farm is going well. So far, an amount of £203 has been raised for church funds. Our grateful thanks to the Gurney family for helping to promote sales, and support fundraising for our lovely church.

## ££ Regular giving ££

Many parishioners now give through the Parish Giving Scheme. This makes life so much easier for me as Treasurer, both in terms of recording and reconciling donations, and in terms of not having to reclaim Gift Aid, because the PGS does it all for us. There are a few people who Gift Aid by Standing Order directly into the PCC bank account and I would urge those people to consider signing up for the PGS. There are also a few who give by cash donations via yellow envelopes. If you prefer to continue doing this, that is fine. Yellow envelopes are normally put into the collection plate at church of course. During this lockdown period, if you have accumulated envelopes containing your regular giving, do please feel free to drop them through my letterbox (16 Brockwood Close) or Jan Cooper at Gamlingay or Dick Edwards at Everton. We would be happy to bank your cash.

Thank you.  
Ian.



THE CHURCH OF  
ST. MARY THE VIRGIN  
GAMLINGAY

I would like to enhance my donation through Gift Aid.  
I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay more Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations, it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

Title ..... First Name/Initials .....  
Surname .....  
Home Address (first line) .....  
Postcode ..... Date .....  
Gift Aid is reclaimed by the charity from the tax you pay for this tax year.  
Your address is needed to identify you as a UK taxpayer.

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### The Guild of St. Mary has Zoomed! (Liz Huckle, Guild Secretary)

If all had gone to plan this year the Guild of St Mary would have already enjoyed our summer outing to Audley End and would be looking forward to an afternoon tea. We have already missed our planned talks on 'Vanishing Cambridgeshire' and 'The History of Women's underwear', not to mention 'Growing Old Disgracefully' (although some may affectionately argue our ladies do not need any instruction with this!).

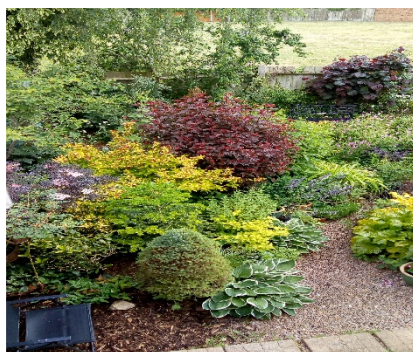
But so far this year is not "normal". Far from it, but different does not have to mean bad. We are continuing our shift into the digital world and to that end the Guild ladies had their first successful virtual meeting on Zoom this month, and until we can meet in person, I hope this won't be the last online chat.

We will miss our annual Garden Party next month which is a shame as it is always a treat to enjoy the wonderful gardens at The Emplins, play games, chat and of course partake of the customary Pimms. It is still unsure when we will be able to meet again and we had many other talks to look forward to, plus a Christmas Party. At present we are missing many things but maybe what we will find is that we miss each other the most. So, when we are back, as good as new, maybe you'd like to join us?!

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### The Creative Coopers!

Rod Cooper would seem to be in need of advice on the wearing of this wonderful face mask made by his clever wife, Jan! However, his gardening skills are second to none – absolutely beautiful!





### **Vera Decker – Memories from her friends:**

Vera was a much loved and active member of our church family for many years. She and her husband, Stan, were very regular attenders and, after his death, she continued to play a full part in all aspects of church life. There is not room here for all the lovely tributes that have come in, but they cover her involvement with the Guild (a committee member for several years), social activities (she rarely missed one and would always offer to help and provide cakes), her enjoyment of Chat Group, Soup Lunches, services at Avenells Way, fundraising activities and many more. Vera had a wonderful sense of humour and fun – who can ever forget her performance as 'The Curtain' in the Guild pantomime? She was an expert at selling raffle tickets and Philippa recalls that, as 'Meeter and Greeter' at Pancake Brunches, she ensured that no one got in without paying! Valerie and Philippa have both written about the beautiful christening robes she made for her twin great-granddaughters and how she hemmed and embroidered purificators for church.



Over the last 18 months we began to see less and less of Vera as her health declined and she was often unable to leave the house. Valerie took communion to her on several occasions. She was always so grateful and would talk for hours, regaling Valerie with stories from her past and about her beloved family. Vera had not had an easy life but she always soldiered on with kindness, determination and a beautiful smile

*From Eileen Thorpe :*

I first met Vera at a church coffee morning. Vera had a great appetite for all the good things in life, her family friends and food. Vera also loved church and we always sat together in the same pew that she had shared with Stan. She would always greet me with a big hug and a smile. Vera loved the church service, the choir, singing hymns, and was a great believer in the power of prayer. We held hands when we went to take communion. Vera said that church gave her a good start to the week. I was always happy to see Vera and I will miss her and her warmth and of course her smiling face.

Vera's funeral will take place on **3<sup>rd</sup> July** just 10 days before her 89<sup>th</sup> birthday. *Rest in peace, Vera.*

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### **Lockdown Grandchild (Ros and Alec Hissett)**

When Alec & I were told we would be grandparents again, we were absolutely delighted! We looked forward to not having to wait our average 8 weeks for a cuddle as we had with the boys in Dubai. How wrong we were!!

As most of you know Vivienne was born as the PM was announcing the lockdown - 23rd March - and a couple of days before Alec received his shielding letter. So, we were in for the long haul again. It was harder this time knowing that they were only a couple of hours away in London, and Vivienne being our first granddaughter. But the almost daily photos and calls were a comfort. None of us knew she was going to be a girl, so I hadn't bought very much for the baby, but then I hit the online shopping with M&S and John Lewis ( most of which was reduced ) and bought my first pink dress and a few other bits. I decided to send Vivienne a card every 4 weeks, photos of flowers in the garden, telling her what we'd been doing, how much we were missing them all - tear jerking stuff and hope they will be a reminder of her first weeks. The weeks dragged on and then it was announced that 6 people could meet in an open space. Hooray! Stephen said they were happy to come to us as we've the space, a day was agreed and then the weather changed. Too cold to sit outside - another delay. But then on Saturday 13th June we finally got to meet Vivienne which was absolutely fantastic. She is such a happy little baby and taking after both her parents with her laid-back approach to life. Of course, that may change. We are hoping for another visit very soon (maybe even a sleepover if the rules are relaxed) and perhaps we will get our long awaited first cuddle.



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

*(There are often several possible collective nouns for groups of birds but these are some of the more commonly used ones.)*

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|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. A Parliament of rooks       | 6. A charm of goldfinches  |
| 2. A descent of woodpeckers    | 7. An unkindness of ravens |
| 3. An exultation of skylarks.  | 8. A murder of crows.      |
| 4. A wisdom of owls.           | 9. A swoop of swallows.    |
| 5. A murmuration of starlings. | 10. A wake of buzzards.    |

**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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