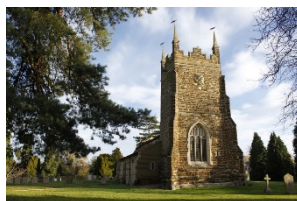


ST MARY'S GAMLINGAY, HATLEY ST GEORGE & ST MARY'S EVERTON



Weekly newsletter 10 July 2020



Are you enjoying these Newsletters?

If so, would you consider showing your appreciation by making a small donation to church funds? This would be entirely at your discretion and by no means a 'charge'. You will continue to receive the newsletter whether you donate or not – we just felt some of you might like to contribute in this way.

With the lack of all our normal church services and fundraising activities, making ends meet in both our Parishes this year is a real challenge and it is vital that we find ways to generate extra income.

There have been ten newsletters so far. A minimum donation of 50p. per letter would amount to £5 but please feel free to give more if you feel so moved!

Donations can be made now, and in future weeks, by either putting cash in an envelope marked "newsletter" or if you would prefer to do an online bank transfer, email Ian for the PCC bank details, if you don't already have them. For Gamlingay and Hatley, please drop any envelopes through Hilary's, Ian's or Jan's door and for Everton, please put them in the box inside the church door at weekends or drop off at Manor Farm. Or alternatively phone Brenda and she will be very happy to come and collect anything from you.

Please specify whether you are supporting 'Gamlingay with Hatleys PCC' or 'Everton PCC'.

THANK YOU SO MUCH.



News from Diane Butler:

Diane has let us know, by phone, how much she is appreciating receiving the printed service material and the newsletter. She doesn't have a computer but each Sunday at around 9.30 a.m., while many of us are Zooming, she sits down quietly and goes through the service. She is very much missing the singing but has become far more aware of the words of hymns and how beautiful some of them are. Like many of us, she is really looking forward to getting back to church and worshipping together.

A couple of weeks ago, having been furloughed since March, Diane was able to return to work in Sandy. Initially she had mixed feelings about this but said she was completely overwhelmed by the welcome she received and the care and concern shown by her fellow workers. One of the good things to come out of this whole experience has been the growth of friendship and mutual support.

From Hilary:

Dear People

As various restrictions are being lifted, I am aware, in myself, of frustrations and anxieties which are no doubt shared by others - in many cases with much greater cause than mine. As has been said a few times, we are all in the same storm, but not all in the same boat. Of course, I don't know about my own boat fully, never mind anyone else's, but I do know that there is more to come of uncertainty, limitations on our activities and real hardship, financially as well as emotionally. BUT, without being mindless of trouble, I do want to encourage hope. Everything passes, everything changes (for better and for worse it is true) but the fact of really trusting that things **can** be better when they are awful is hugely important for our well-being and capacity to recover. So, I offer the following reflection with thanks and acknowledgement to Di at Scargill House. Di writes:

In these bewildering times it takes patience to know that we are on the right path, and while we may not be exactly where we would like or want to be, we can recognise it's only for now. This won't be forever. I'm still learning how to be more patient, but at least I know I will get there eventually. Well I hope so anyway!

Patient Trust *Pierre Teilhard de Chardin SJ (1881 - 1955)*

Above all, trust in the slow work of God.

We are quite naturally impatient in everything to reach the end without delay.

We should like to skip the intermediate stages.

We are impatient of being on the way to something unknown, something new.

And yet it is the law of all progress that it is made by passing through some stages of instability and that it may take a very long time.

And so I think it is with you.

Your ideas mature gradually - let them grow,

let them shape themselves, without undue haste.

Don't try to force them on, as though you could be today what time; that is to say, grace and circumstances acting on your own good will, will make of you tomorrow.

Only God could say what this new spirit gradually forming within you will be.
Give our Lord the benefit of believing that His hand is leading you, and accept the anxiety of feeling yourself in suspense and incomplete.

Church opening and Memorial time

The churches are now open, according to previous patterns in terms of timing and in compliance with various guidelines and instructions. I am working on some material that can be left in church to take away and which will be updated weekly. If you have any views on what would be helpful please do say – I'm thinking of something that links with the readings and zoom service material so as to make best use of resources.

We have a bank of instructions and guidelines to work through for returning to public worship. This will happen in a limited way during the next few weeks, preparing for (if all goes well) a full return in mid-September. Sometime after that (possibly for the end of October - All Saints/All Souls) we will be offering an opportunity for remembering together. We will be giving thanks both for the living and what has been given to the community in this tough time, as well as for the departed. As part of that I have commissioned an artwork from my sister (the one with Melanoma) which I will be using in church then. Do be in touch if you would like to offer anything or have any other suggestions for that service.

Pastoral Network and consultation

Readers of this Newsletter may well be aware that, as a result of lock-down, the Benefice has moved forward with an idea the PCCs had already been considering. Namely, we have established a network of people helping to keep us all, including the Parish Priest, in contact and feeling part of a united Church.

During the time we have been out of the churches we have learned a good deal about what matters to us spiritually, inner life's pilgrimage. As we think about returning to our buildings, we are endeavouring to contact all our church connections by phone or in person. We will be seeking views about the way forward for corporate worship as the churches re-open and services are resumed - both for this current transition time as well as with thoughts to the future.

If you have not spoken to anyone who is helping disseminate and gather information and you have views you would like to share, do please get in touch with Hilary who can let you know the questions we have been asking.

Use it or lose it

At present we have the Zoom offerings listed below, some of which are specific to particular groups but most of which are open to all. These will mostly be happening until mid-September with possible weekly adjustments depending on availability of personnel. The midweek communion could be replaced by a service in church, not necessarily at that time, or even that day. Do let me know which of these you value. If you would like to attend any of the Zoom sessions and don't have the invitation, please be in touch. Most are on a repeatable invitation though Sunday service is not. I'm presently looking at Thursday evening, which was conceived as an opportunity for those not used to or interested in formal Bible Study, to look at any topic they choose to explore in the light of the Bible and Christian thinking.

Sunday 9.30am	All Age Communion Service supported by email order of service, readings and set prayers
Monday 11am	Monday Wardens meeting
Tuesday 10.30- 11.45 4pm	Bible Study - presently looking at the Gospel for the coming Sunday. Family session preparing for Sunday
Wednesday 9.30am	Spiritual Communion together.
Thursday 8.00pm 9.00pm	Discussion/study time Compline (on the same invitation as 8pm)

Hilary

'Stickville' (*Jane Brown – Brown Owl*)

Have you seen Stickville? It's on the corner of Waresley Road and Brockwood Close and has been populated with stick people made by Gamlingay Brownies. On 20th June I took 2 long walks around the village to deliver wool, googly eyes and instructions to all the Brownies, inviting them to make stick people to populate Stickville and give the people of Gamlingay something to look at whilst out on their daily walks. I made a sign and filled a tray with compost for the stick people to stand in, as the ground was too hard, and waited. Stick people began to arrive and at the time of writing there are 20 inhabitants.

I have seen several people stopping for a look or to take a picture and leaving with a smile, so the Brownies have fulfilled my hope of creating something to spread a little happiness during lockdown.

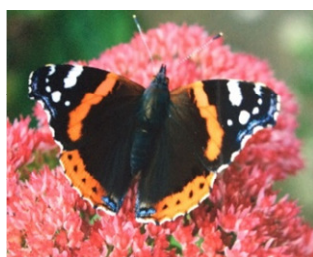


BUTTERFLY TIME (*David Elcome*)

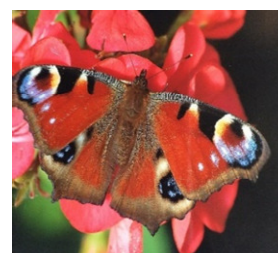
If the strong winds drop and it gets a bit warmer during the next few days, keep your eyes open for butterflies in your garden and as you walk around our villages. There are many flowers where they can sip the sugar-rich nectar but look especially for large butterflies feeding at buddleia flowers and on brambles. If you go to Gamlingay Wood, Buff Wood at Hatley or, perhaps, Everton Churchyard look for the big, orange and black, silver-washed fritillary. There may also be peacocks, red admirals, small tortoiseshells, commas, small, large and green-veined whites. Of the smaller varieties look for gate keepers, ringlets, meadow browns, speckled woods and the 'blues' - holly blue is now on its second generation. Do let us know what you see!



*Silver
washed
fritillary*



*Red
Admiral*



Peacock

Did you find them?

This one is in the lane that runs between West Road and Little Heath. The verge is protected because of a rare plant which has been found there. (We'd be delighted to hear from anyone who has actually found it and/or can name it!)



This one can be seen on the side wall of The Cock in Church Street.



Well done Jan Cooper - first to take up the limerick challenge!

There was an old lady called Jan
Of lockdown she wasn't a fan
She went for her walks
But missed all her talks
But wine wasn't under the ban!

My diary I've had to neglect
With no dates for me to select.
But wait! What is this?
A moment of bliss...
I've a slot for a 'click and collect'!

Do keep them coming! Who will be next?

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
Dawn Martin , Gamlingay/Hatley PCC Secretary	dawnbeckymartin@aol.com	652832
Jane Gurney , Everton Churchwarden		
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