

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



## Weekly newsletter 17 July 2020



### *From Hilary:*

**Thank you** to the people who helped collect and to all who have responded to the consultation on return to church. A summary is being prepared and will be shared. This is just to say 'Thank You' and confirm that we are listening and (Wardens and I) are doing our best in challenging circumstances to make things as good as they can be for as many as possible - no surprises that there is no clear consensus!

Note that the Zoom 9.30am Benefice service will continue through the Summer holidays, alongside some services in the churches. As we get organized, information will go out by the usual channels on what to expect and how to be prepared. The next challenge will be use of masks, I suspect.

**Do what you can, and do not focus on what you can't** (that involves not letting what you can't do stop you from doing what you can). This is one of my personal mantras that I repeat to myself, and others, increasingly at the moment. In these times when there are so many things I can't do, it is much harder than might be imagined to do what **can** be done. Particularly, as I've noted before, I find that everything is taking much longer than I would like or expect. When I look back, why did it take me all morning, sometimes all day, to do something that was an hour's work at most? Why is that phone call I thought of making on Saturday still not made on the following Thursday evening? Well there are lots of reasons, mainly to do with distractions. Some are important, even essential (like eating, answering the phone, dealing with an urgent issue that comes up unpredictably); some are not so obviously relevant, but they are all in there. I am still working on looking for God in these, sometimes frustrating, occurrences, recognising that I'm not expected by the Almighty (even if by other people) to do what I can't. Come Holy Spirit, inhabit my life and lead me deeper into you, the God who is three and one, Father Son and Holy Spirit.

### **Be Kind**

I bought myself a T Shirt with this on, (thank you Dorothy at Dotty's) as a reminder to myself to be especially kind to others during a time when we all need it so much more. It was only when putting it on I realised that it is mostly other people that see it. I hope it doesn't generate in others the response that came from Norman - 'you're ordering me to be kind to you?' - though I wouldn't mind if it came over as a request!

This reminded me of something I constantly have to work on - be kind to myself. I am learning not to beat myself up over the things that don't go well. I only share this to encourage you to do the same. What looks like laziness is as likely to be, in fact, caused by a number of other good reasons. This might seem like selfishness, but it is not. If I don't understand myself, how can I understand other people?

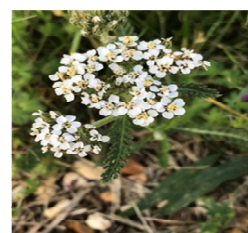
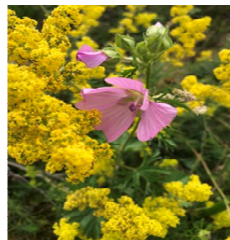
I have been shocked by the negative attitudes and attributes others have imputed to me which are highly inaccurate, until I realise that this is what they are afraid might be true, or at least look true, of themselves as much as of me. So, let's all be kind, and believe the best rather than fearing the worst, of ourselves and of one another.

### **Come on and Celebrate - Birthdays**

At our previous week's Zoom service, we sang birthday greetings to Bella Titmus, and learned it was also Chris Miller's birthday (so we sang to him too!). I asked, then, if anyone was willing to keep track of birthdays of church members - provided they were willing to share that information of course! I am one of this world's birthday forgetters, and Norman is no better. Lindy Gorton has kindly offered to be 'Keeper of the Birthday Book' for church. She will be contacting people for whom she already has the information to see if it's OK for her to keep and share that information with me. If you are one of those who hates being sung to, we won't do it of course - just make sure we know. Even if we don't sing, I would like to be able to give thanks in private prayer, and all being well send a card - it would still be nice to celebrate the anniversary of the arrival on earth of each one of us.

### **Summer Churchyards**

The churchyards of all the church buildings of our parishes are worth a look. I've not been able to visit them all, but below are some of the wildflowers seen this last week – mostly in the Everton extension. Churchyards are a precious resource of ancient, undisturbed grassland, and with the right management can provide wonderful wildlife habitats, not just for flowers. The sound and sight of grasshoppers took me back to childhood but, sadly, they were too quick for me to get a picture. Special thanks to the people who are helping to look after these areas. At St Denis in East Hatley that's a group of folk (*see separate report from Peter Mann*) who care about the redundant church there (the churchyard is still PCC responsibility) and in Everton the recently formed Sandy Road Strimmers have done a wonderful job. Hatley St George churchyard is looked after frequently by the Astor Estate, and Gamlingay by the Parish Council, who have that responsibility since the churchyard is 'closed' (meaning formally no longer available for burials and therefore not kept by the PCC) though the church still has jurisdiction over it.



**Hilary**

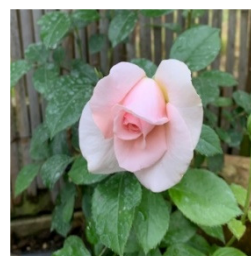
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### **News-bite from Ros and Alec:**

We met Christine Titmus on our walk around the Meadows yesterday. We haven't seen her for a long time but she asked us to say 'Hello' and give her best wishes to anyone who knows or remembers her.



**Beautiful delphiniums and a glorious  
rose from Jan and Pete Smith's garden.**





## **A sunny St Denis' churchyard tidy-up – a good work out on Saturday, 11th July**

*(By East Hatley resident Peter Mann)*

The weather was nice and over a dozen people turned up last Saturday to help with mowing and raking the south side of St Denis' churchyard where the very long grass, not cut since March in order to let the wild flowers seed and insects to hatch, was finally tackled. Anyone who lets their lawn grow and grow will know cutting long grass is not an easy task. As the St Denis' churchyard is also a nature reserve (although you can still be buried there), we have a management plan which dictates the four occasions in the year when it can be mowed, which inevitably means it's too long to cut with my ride-on mower. As the traditional way of cutting long grass is with a scythe, we were able, thanks to a Community Chest grant from South Cambs District Council, to purchase a scissor (also called a scythe) mower in 2013 – there's a [story about its blessing on the Hatley website](#). It's not the easiest of mowers to use (the scissor action makes the machine vibrate somewhat) and it only cuts, so an army of helpers is required to follow it round and rake up. Fortunately there are many in East Hatley who took up the call to rake (and have a go at mowing), including (with many apologies for being late) our own vicar, the Rev'd Hilary Young, who gamely mowed a long strip of grass!

As always, a big 'thank you' to Nicola Jenkins for organising things and to all the helpers (too many to mention here) for their time and the 'work out' effort they put in to cut and pile up the very long grass.

Names, further information and many more photos can be found on the [Hatley website](#).



*Hilary gets to grips with the mower!*



*Sterling work by Hatley residents*

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## **Further news from 'East Hatley Wildlife Park'! (Mervyn Lack)**

We have been adopted by a juvenile moorhen. He/she has taken up residence on our pond, just outside our patio window. Spends its day swimming, eating and, mostly, preening. Has been with us for two weeks now and is entirely at home. Our pond is netted, to deter the herons, and provides a nice safe haven for the moorhen. It occasionally has a wander about our patio and enjoys watching the other birds, and squirrels, at our bird feeders. It is not afraid and can be seen sharing the seeds on the ground with the visiting magpies. The neighbourhood cats, and our own four dogs, have shown some interest, but we keep an eye on it and we hope we can see it through to adulthood. It is quite large, probably more obvious because we are seeing it so up close, and it appears very happy with its lot. Will keep you informed of its progress.

Mervyn has also emailed to say that, amongst many other butterflies in his garden over the weekend, he saw a marbled white.



### Do you feel safe and secure in your own home?

We did. Surrounded by high fences and conifers, we did not anticipate a visit from an uninvited guest. Having been locked in for several months due to the pandemic, we were enjoying some time with our family in Little Gransden. We had a nice meal with them and took part in a zoom quiz. Then, a call to their landline informed us that our intruder alarm had gone off. We shot home to find our bedroom door smashed in, glass everywhere.

I have to say that we were extremely well looked after by the Cambridgeshire Police. They assured us that our alarm had done the trick. The said burglar had made a huge mistake by not checking we had an alarm. The box was obscured from the road by a large shrub. My mother would have said that where there is a will there is a way! This was the mistake the police were waiting for as the intruder was wanted by the police of 3 counties for many offences. Thanks to the cameras on neighbouring properties, the police were pretty sure that they knew the burglar and arrested him after a car chase the very next day. He is now on remand.

It could have been much worse.....

Chris Wareham

### More lockdown limericks!

*(From Lindy Gorton)*

There was an old woman of Gamlingay  
Who set out for heaven but lost her way.  
She decided to sin  
On whiskey and gin  
Then couldn't remember the time of day!

*(I couldn't resist a reply! BE)*

That woman from Gamlingay who'd strayed  
From the heavenly path that was laid  
Had done so much good....  
Just as much as she could,  
Even boozy she'd still make the grade!

*(From Valerie Miller)*

This is my story in song  
My hair had grown very long  
I went with a will  
To Jane's cutting mill  
And now it's just right, not wrong.

**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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