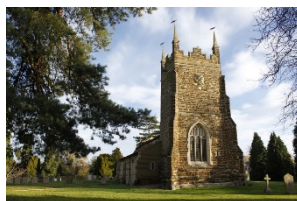


ST MARY'S GAMLINGAY, HATLEY ST GEORGE & ST MARY'S EVERTON



Weekly newsletter 24 July 2020



From Hilary:

Feedback on the Feedback:

I have been looking at the returns from the survey in more detail (as they are mostly in now) and, unsurprisingly, a considerable range of feeling is expressed. A couple of points of response follow. A proposal for your consideration which is based on 'the art of the possible' will come round soon - this week's Wednesday communion in church will be a try-out.

Communion

Many of us are finding watching a communion service on screen, where we cannot partake physically, unsatisfying - some to the degree that they don't feel it is worth attending. The first thing to say is whatever works, or doesn't work, for you is respected. What follows is offered in case it helps.

The point of Holy Communion is togetherness with Christ and with one another in Christ - an outward and physical act, signifying and enabling an inward and spiritual gift. It is one of the deep sadnesses of our current times that this is not possible in the manner to which we are accustomed. Doctrine and theology of the sacramental ministry of the churches is challenged, and the faith of many of us is tested as we cannot be physically together and share real food and drink. Under current regulations the act of celebrating Communion is rendered impossible with more than one household. As the C of E (unlike the Catholic Church) says there must be at least one person as well as the priest for a valid celebration, some clergy who live alone have been unable to conduct a communion service at all, especially if they have been shielding. C of E clergy have also been firmly reminded that it is absolutely not appropriate to 'consecrate over the internet' with people at home eating their own bread and wine at the communion as the body and blood of Christ. Pre-consecrating and sending out 'communion parcels' for use at the same time as the communion in an on-screen service is also not appropriate practice (although anecdotal evidence suggests that this is happening). My own view is that the Almighty can sort everything out, and that we must be careful not to 'teach the statutes of man as the ordinances of God'. At the same time, we should recognise that there is value in structure, regulation and obedience.

We all have to deal with ourselves before we can start trying to deal with anyone else. I have felt acutely the pain of those 'watching on' and have considered not taking communion myself in solidarity. But then the point of the consecration would be lost. So, whilst I cannot offer this as a positive suggestion, if you were to be eating something at the point of receiving communion to help you spiritually, I would not be policing that.

Social responsibility- our Church

As we began lockdown the Food Bank box was moved from Gamlingay church to the Gamlingay Co-Op. We were always going to ask for a second box there, but this pushed us into action. Lee and staff were most helpful. Gerry (our Food Bank link) was obliged to stay at home, as were some of our volunteers who had been delivering donations to the distribution centre. However, Co-Op customers have been generous and there have been donations to distribute to those in need. The churches have been working together (ourselves and the Baptists) with help from the other Gamlingay Village volunteers coordinated by Lucy and Shelley.

St Neots Food Bank and The Need Project - organisations external to Gamlingay village which provide for people in need in our villages and elsewhere - have received the donations. Volunteers are taking items collected in church to Tesco – more help always welcome. Anyone known to be in need can initially be referred to Hilary in complete confidence.

Useless? NO!

A heartbreak for me has been my own limited capacity to physically help other people. My prayers go unseen. Things may change because of them but who knows or believes that? I am shielding an 86 year old asthmatic husband (who incidentally hates being in that situation!) so what can I do personally? I can't even fit in the phone calls I thought I would have more time to make, both because there are so many other things that take time I'd not imagined, and because my brain so often feels slowed to fudge. **Does that sound familiar?**

I have had to work hard on this for myself, and so maybe sharing my journey will help others who may be feeling the same. Here is what I keep telling myself and remember - what we tell ourselves affects how we are so be careful with negative self-talk!

1. There is nothing helpful in comparing ourselves with others and thinking we should be doing what they are doing. Getting upset because we can't do what we used to is equally useless. The enemy whispers in our ear that we are not good enough, that nothing we CAN do is worth doing. **Do what I can, not what I can't** - and know that that is enough. And remember, I am loved as a 'human being', not a 'human doing'.
2. Our prayers are the most important part of our spiritual lives. That is when we plug in and switch on to the Almighty, listening as well as talking, learning more about ourselves and growing and maturing spiritually. **Keeping praying - listening** - to myself, to other people and to God in an interlinked, active, paying attention manner brings change for the better, in me if not in the external situation.
3. Thanksgiving for blessings, genuinely appreciating the little things, and taking time to be nice to myself - not being selfish but expressing real faith in the God who loves me/us and wants the best.

Flowers back in the Churches

Blessings on the volunteers who have been putting flowers in our churches now they are open again. In Everton the flower rota is up and running, and Anne Clarke has put flowers in Gamlingay church. If you would like to sponsor flowers or join in the rota in either church, please get in touch.



My 'Has Bean'

This runner bean came up where I planted some beans last year. I can only assume it survived the winter underground. The irony is that it is doing better than any of the ones I planted on purpose. Most of them (the new seeds this year) never made it to the garden, damped off as they germinated. The three that did survive were saved seed from last year and are all much smaller and further behind than this one.

Hilary

An update on the Hatley moorhen! Mervyn Lack.

The moorhen who had adopted us has disappeared as suddenly as it appeared. We don't know what has happened to it, there have been no obvious signs of predation, and we like to think it has moved on to a better abode. We miss it but the responsibility we felt for its wellbeing has been lifted.

The Echinacea (aka Horn flower) in the front garden has become a magnet for bees and butterflies. Particularly striking are the Red Admiral and the Peacock, which spend hours feeding on the nectar the flowers provide.

More news from East Hatley as it unfolds.

The bells ring out! (Brenda, David and Valerie)

As some of you know, we three play handbells with the Ivel Ringers. Normally we meet every Thursday evening in the Baptist Church Hall in Sandy. Needless to say, we have not been able to get



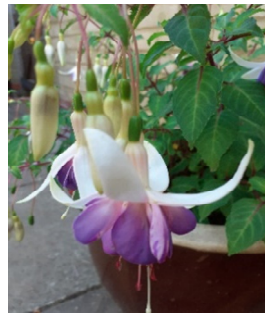
together for a practice since March and we have all been feeling really deprived! On Monday afternoon six of us gathered in the Elcome's front garden (less disturbing for the neighbours than the back) and enjoyed a really good ring. Instead of our usual three and a half full octaves of bells played off tables, we had just two each and used music stands. Some music is arranged for just 12 bells and is sometimes quite simple to play. However, Maggie, our leader, doesn't go in for 'simple' and the new pieces she provided for us, though enjoyable, were certainly challenging!

The weather was kind and the sun shone. We had done our best to provide shade with a gazebo and two umbrellas but, of course, the sun has an unfortunate habit of moving which provided yet another challenge. The music had to be pegged down due to a bit of a breeze but fortunately there were no high winds. The recent lack of practice didn't seem to have affected us too badly and we all enjoyed ourselves so much that we have planned another session next week - but we're not telling you when!

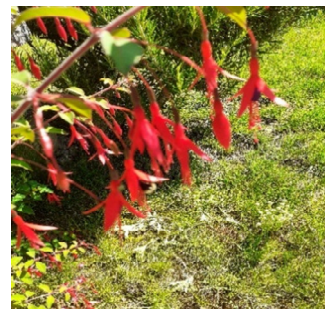
From Valerie :



The first year the lily has flowered.



I love fuschias



Can you spot the bee? It's head down in a flower.

EASYFUNDRAISING : *Alec Hissett*

A huge thank you to everyone who has been using Easyfundraising to raise free donations for our church funds. At this time when our usual fund raising activities have been suspended this is a really important source of money for the church.

If you haven't yet signed up, **Easyfundraising** has over 4,000 shops and sites which will donate to us at no extra cost to yourself, including lots of big name retailers like John Lewis, Argos, Uswitch, eBay, M&S, Just Eat, Now TV, Domino's Pizza and Audible. All you have to do is sign up to support us using the link below. Then every time you shop online, go through the easyfundraising website or App and we'll receive a percentage of your spend as a free donation, at no cost to you or us.

You can find our **Easyfundraising** page at : <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk>

This wonderful poem, found on the internet, was written by an 8 year old boy from Kidderminster who wanted to make people smile!

Lockdown is a scary time
So I thought that I would write a rhyme
To put a smile on people's faces
From around the world in lots of places.

Lots of time with my family
Fills me with enormous glee.
Home school teaching from my Mum
With my brother who's a pain in the bum!

Missing my bike rides and playing out
It really makes me want to shout.
Nannies and Grandads can't see me
But safety really is the key.

Watching movies on Disney Plus
Stops us making such a fuss.
Eating ice-cream in the garden
Makes us burp, but we say pardon!

Missing our friends and all our teachers,
Watching You Tube to see who features
In the Franche videos that set us challenges.
Hope no one fails and ends up in bandages.

One day when this will come to an end
Hopefully we won't have driven Mum round the bend
We will look back and cherish the thought
Of the lessons we've learned and ones we were taught.

For those in need of a little mental stimulation!

Can you make sense of the following numbers and letters? *Example: 52 W in a Y = 52 Weeks in a Year.*

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. 40 D and N in L | 6. 1901 Q V D |
| 2. 1 F O the C N | 7. 18 H on a G C |
| 3. 13 in a B D | 8. 5 T on E F |
| 4. 88 K on a P | 9. 1936 K E the E A |
| 5. 10 P for the L Q in S | 10. 3 M in a B |

Answers next week!

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:

Hilary Young , Parish Priest	hilaryafyoung@gmail.com	650587
Alec Hissett , Gamlingay/Hatley Churchwarden	alechissett@hotmail.com	650052
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		
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