

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



## Weekly newsletter 5 March 2021



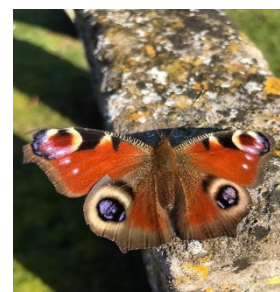
### *From Hilary:*

This Sunday sees Gamlingay's Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM). Please hold that in prayer, wherever you are in the Benefice, and attend if you can. 'Send the right people and help us to recognise them when they are there' is a prayer for all of us. Do read on for some exciting developments underway in the Benefice, although physically Gamlingay based, they are inclusive of surrounding areas even beyond the immediate Benefice communities. The Sunday service is not an All-Age Eucharist despite being a first Sunday, rather it is being carried over to the following week which is Mothering Sunday.

I've not managed evening prayers on-line yet this week but have not given up trying. I have enjoyed our Lent study discussion meetings, and the connecting up between the weekly session and the families' initiative with the Lent Jars. Maisie writes elsewhere with some support for an aspect of 'caring for creation' which I thought might be of interest to all of us (where DO you find hair shampoo that's not in a plastic bottle?).

See below a partial re-running of the Christian Aid item from last time, as no one has mentioned it other than the people who have 'always' done Christian Aid. Please do get in touch unless, of course, you want this to fall by the wayside in our parishes.

Pictured, a Peacock butterfly, the third of three released from inside Gamlingay church this Sunday, when it was just warm enough outside for them to take wing, after fluttering about in church. I'm not sure they'll survive outside, but they certainly weren't going to inside.



Blessings for a continuing holy Lent

*Hilary*

## Church Annual Meetings

**Gamlingay with Hatley APCM** as announced, is this Sunday 7th March on Zoom, at 11.15am.

The annual report is available in church in hard copy and has been circulated by email, do read it! At the time of writing there was a significant shortage of nominations for roles in parish governance - it will not be fit for purpose if everyone thinks 'that's not me'. There are several people due to come off the PCC this year, so nominations are needed for replacements - you can ask to be nominated, so please think, and act now.

**Everton cum Tetworth APCM** has been fixed for Sunday 18th April at 11.30am, formal notice will be posted. It is not too late to be added to the Electoral Roll which is being revised. This is primarily open to any resident of the parish who is a member of the Church of England, but others may also be eligible - do ask if you are not sure.

### **Christian Aid Week 10-16 May Will you Help? Please?**

Hilary is waiting for contact to offer help of any sort, ideally including someone willing to act as the link with the Christian Aid organisation. Dorothy would love to have someone to hand over to as she finishes. May is not so far away and action is needed now. One parish has raised £20K for the CA vaccine initiative, where those who have had a free vaccination pay a donation to CA to enable a vaccine dose for someone in a country where there is no free supply. 'Until all are safe, no one is safe' - so this is enlightened self-interest! Might we support this?



### **Churches Opening times - reviewed this week, remain as previously**

with the intention of opening further during Holy Week, but awaiting guidance.

**Everton** - check locally, usually open during daylight hours on Sunday.

**Hatley** church can be opened on request.

**Gamlingay** church is open after morning services on Sunday and Wednesday.

### **Keeping Lent**

**Study Sessions** continue on Tuesday evenings and Wednesday mornings on Listening and Prayer.

**Next week (3) 9th March** - Prayer and Listening to God in the Church.

### **Lent Jars - Caring for God's Creation this week's theme 'Energy'**

A couple of jars are still available in Gamlingay at time of writing. While chains have not yet appeared – all may be different by Sunday

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## **Hatley St George Churchyard Wildlife**

Penny Hewlett had commented there is a Kestrel perching on the church building. Do we welcome this visitor or try and deter it because of the mess? (See the photos). Penny writes....

*Apart from human life enjoying the Hatley Churchyard – cyclists, walkers, picnickers etc and our resident night perching kestrel, we have a variety of creatures and birds here. I saw a large and fit looking dog fox wandering around recently and cubs have been bred in past years there. Muntjac are frequently seen often nibbling at fresh flowers on the graves – not so good – and anything else they fancy. Squirrels are abundant and rabbits used to be but gone for now. Bats, which live inside the Church, are sometimes seen flitting around outside at dusk in the summer. Jackdaws and crows are tossing the moss off the Church roof at the moment. In spring a blackbird often sings perched on the remains of the weather-vane on the Church tower – wonderful to hear.*

*Penny Hewlett*



## **This Sunday.....**

### **Sunday 7th March Lent 3**

9.30am Zoom Benefice Eucharist (not All age this week)

Meeting ID: 812 3999 3200. Passcode: 002659

11.15am Gamlingay, Hatley St George and East Hatley APCM (same zoom link as the service)

## What's on this next week (Monday 8th - Sunday 14th March)

### Every day : Morning Prayer at 8am

Do join us, Chris, Hilary and Sandra, if you can, on Zoom.

**Hilary Young is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting. Topic: Morning Prayer.** Time: This is a recurring meeting open at 8am daily. Join Zoom Meeting Meeting ID: 820 5991 7704. Passcode: 621586

### Monday 8th March

**4pm Benefice Wardens' Meeting.** This week we have set time aside to look at re-opening churches, and in particular what's possible for Holy Week. Your prayerful support will be most valued as we seek to find the best possible plans for our present circumstances.

### Tuesday 9th March

**Lent Study 3** 7.30pm Meeting ID: 844 7281 8795 Passcode: 023089

### Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> March

**9.30 Eucharist on Zoom Meeting ID: 857 7959 5724 Passcode: 958554**

**10.30 Lent Study repeat session** on same Zoom link as the service.

**4.30pm Lent/Communion Preparation** for children and families

### Sunday 14th March (Lent 4) Mothering Sunday

**9.30 Zoom All Age Communion/Eucharist**

#### **From Maisie Macrow**

We are completing our Lent challenges and focussing on our theme 'Caring for Creation' - Week 2 is Consumer Choice. If you're looking for a zero waste, plastic free shopping experience, 'The Refill Shop' in St Neots and 'Bamboo Turtle' in Letchworth/Biggleswade are worth a visit, check out their websites below. Both shops offer zero-waste, plastic-free, whole food, ingredients and domestic products and raw artisan chocolate.

The Refill Shop also stocks locally handmade soaps, scrubs, shampoo and conditioner bars, lotion and bath bombs.

Bamboo Turtle has a Beauty Bar where you can have fun making your own beauty products.

Bamboo Turtle also has fun and healthy recipe cards to try on their website, try something new to cook - it might turn into a favourite!

<https://www.facebook.com/refillshopstneots>

THE REFILL SHOP 40 St. Mary's Street. St. Neots, PE19 2TA (on the round-a-bout next to the church)

<https://bambooturtle.co.uk>

12 - 14 The Arcade, Letchworth Garden City, Hertfordshire, SG6 3ET and 6 High Street, Biggleswade, Bedfordshire, SG18 0JA

**NOTE - THE BIGGLESWADE SHOP IS CURRENTLY SHUT FOR LOCKDOWN.**

There are lots of little changes we can make that make a big difference to our world.

Try swapping your normal plastic bottle of shampoo or shower gel to a more eco-friendly shampoo/soap bar.

Happy mindful shopping!

*Maisie x*

#### **Fundraising**

##### **Easter Catalogue**

This is our first **big** fundraising event in 2021 so please help to make it a success.

Thank you to everyone who has offered items for sale in the catalogue. It is not too late if you have thought of something that you could make or donate (we don't have anything for the garden yet!). We are aiming to circulate the catalogue on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> March so please look out for it in your in-box or letter box. Full details of how to order items in time for Easter will be included in the catalogue and I would urge you to ask your family and friends to participate, if possible. Email [alechissett@hotmail.com](mailto:alechissett@hotmail.com) or telephone 01767 650052.

##### **Easyfundraising**

In February **£39.64** was raised through easyfundraising, a huge thank you!

If you're planning ahead and booking a holiday or short break for later in the year, please use easyfundraising. You can raise a BIG donation for church funds with TUI, Expedia, Secret Escapes, Hotels.com and many more at no extra cost to yourself and have something to look forward to!

Visit: <http://efraising.org/IejU3TfN70>  
*Alec Hissett.*

## *Favourite Prayers*

*Another one from Chris Miller.....*

**DEFEND, O Lord, this thy servant  
with thy heavenly grace;**  
that I may continue thine for ever;  
and daily increase in thy Holy Spirit  
more and more, until I come unto thy  
everlasting kingdom.  
Amen.



*... and one from Madeleine Marsh*

O Lord, support us all the day long  
of this troublous life,  
until the shades lengthen,  
the evening comes,  
the busy world is hushed,  
The fever of life is over  
And our work is done.  
Then Lord, in your mercy,  
grant us a safe lodging,  
a holy rest  
and peace at the last.  
Amen.

### **'RenewWellbing' at the Backroom Cafe GBC**

This is one of two health initiatives connected with the churches which are particularly relevant in these Pandemic times. 'Renew' is a national initiative which is being picked up by the Baptist Church as lead, and with which St Mary's in Gamlingay is partnering. Do be in touch with Hilary to volunteer. This may be of particular interest to the Healing Ministry team, but support from everyone is most welcome, especially in prayer as things are starting up. The first base will be at the Backroom Cafe, but it is hoped that another can be developed with a similar shared support team in St Mary's when a suitable space is identified.

From the RenewWellbing websites - **'What we do'....**

#### **What is Renew Wellbeing?**

Based around the 5 Ways to Wellbeing, Renew spaces work on three simple principles: **being present, being prayerful and being in partnership.**

#### **Being Present**

Each renew space is run by a local church who give their time and share hobbies and skills in a homely welcoming space. The Renew Wellbeing team offer to be present alongside churches embarking on this journey. We will meet with the leaders, the church and help you find your connections with the mental health team. We will offer support while the renew space is established and will keep visiting and reviewing to help sustain good practice.

#### **Being Prayerful**

As each Renew space settles into a rhythm of quiet prayer and opens up these habits to their community so Renew Wellbeing will be praying for and with each Renew space. We will train and provide resources to each church where needed and the website will offer ongoing encouragement and advice for a shared journey of sustained prayerful habits for wellbeing.

#### **Being in Partnership**

As each Renew Space establishes good partnerships with statutory services, so the Renew Wellbeing team offers to partner with each Renew space by offering training, support and regular news. An annual gathering keeps links strong between centres and helps us share good practice and resources. Renew Wellbeing also represents the Renew movement in national conversations about faith communities partnering for better mental health provision.

### **'Gardening for Well Being'**

This is another health-related idea, still in very early stages, resulting from several things coming together: i.e., publicity given to the health benefits of growing things, our 'care for creation' Lent theme, and the Pandemic having given opportunity for interest-sharing via Facebook groups - meeting an enthusiasm for enabling others to grow things. A chance meeting and conversation has led to looking at what spaces are available to offer (free) practical support to anyone interested in growing things to improve their mental health. Although this is a church initiative, it is intended for anyone, so do get in touch with Hilary if you would like to be part of things. This is not intended to replace any existing groups, but to provide communal space and pooling of resources under knowledgeable guidance., particularly but not exclusively for beginners and those who would like company in their gardening. Watch this space!

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