

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



Weekly newsletter 2 October 2020



From Hilary:

Greetings at the start of October as we continue into Autumn with the expected resurgence of the Coronavirus. We are blessed in this place with the space and fresh air we have around us and the possibilities of staying distanced. However, no one should be (and we certainly aren't in our churches) complacent about the fact that Covid 19, as well as other viruses which we haven't taken as seriously as we should, will be around even more as the weather cools, the days shorten and the possibilities for outdoor activities reduce.

Who can attend Church? What services will be held?

At the moment, churches can allow as many people to attend a regular Sunday worship service as can be accommodated safely. Do keep watching out for changing advice and regulations. For now, we are offering an adjusted schedule of main Sunday worship for the Benefice in the two parish churches each week. This does not mean, of course, that everyone should be at church. If you have any symptoms that could be Covid 19 you should not be out, never mind in church. In addition, anyone with any symptoms of illness and anyone who is particularly vulnerable should avoid places where people congregate. This obviously includes church.

We continue to try to consider the needs of all, faced with the fact that we can't do everything or please everyone. If you are one of those to whom this applies - THANK YOU for being gracious and generous where your needs cannot be met. We will listen and explore any reasonable suggestions for how things could be adjusted but be aware there are many factors to balance. Please do be in touch if you are unable to attend church for whatever reason and we will keep you particularly in mind.

We have looked at the minimum capacities of our churches while maintaining 2m distance. We are confident of a capacity of 70 in Gamlingay (not including the choir stalls but including some areas with limited sight-lines); somewhere around 45 in Everton, including the choir area; and around 18 in Hatley. These are not exact, nor are they maximums, as the configurations and therefore capacities change if people come in family groups larger than 2. Because of the large number of possible permutations, it is impossible to say how many more could be fitted in with groups - we think in Gamlingay it could be up to 100, Everton around 55 and Hatley possibly 25. As our regular attendances on Sundays are well below these capacities, we have no worries on that score. For the special occasions, particularly Remembrance and Christmas services, we probably won't be able to do what we have done in the past, although we will still be celebrating, singing carols, and generally not being stopped by the need to make significant adjustments. God bless us all in our ongoing efforts.

Weekly Diary

Sunday 4th October - Benefice Harvest Week Begins

9.30 a.m. : All Age Communion celebrating Harvest at Gamlingay, Sparks help lead the worship

4.00 p.m. : Evening Worship at Everton

Tuesday 6th October

Zoom Bible Study 10.30 a.m.

Wednesday 7th October

9.30 a.m. : Midweek said Communion, Gamlingay

12 noon : Funeral Sarah Wichett at Cambridge Crematorium

Thursday 8th October

Zoom Open Meeting 8 p.m. followed by Compline at 9 p.m. Contact Hilary for Zoom connection.

Sunday 11th October Benefice Harvest Weekends

9.30am Eucharist at Gamlingay

4.00pm Harvest Festival and Gift Day at Everton (Activities from 3.30, Covid permitting)

Harvest Services + Sandra Macrow's authorisation

This year, as we come to say 'thank you' at our Harvest Festivals in Benefice Harvest Thanksgiving Week, we are not able to do exactly as we have done in previous years. However, we are in our church buildings and all three places will be decorated for Harvest. Although this year there will not be a service in Hatley, the church will be open on the Sundays at either end of the Harvest octave and decorated for the festival. Everton's service is next Sunday. A Gift Day letter will be going round the village and ER membership this week, while Gamlingay's Harvest is incorporated into our Benefice All Age Eucharist.

Please do contribute in whichever of the following ways works for you and to whichever church in the Benefice you wish (you can contribute to more than one!). We are saying 'thank you' for 'all good gifts around us' - so much more than our food. The following are invited:

- + *Photos or other representations of something or someone you want to give thanks for.*
- + *Financial contribution to churches (gift aided donations in envelopes - provided at Everton - bring your own for the others)*
- + *Produce to decorate church (NB we will not be able to run an auction this year, so maybe this isn't the best way to give if you want to help those in need, although we will do our best to distribute fresh produce effectively)*
- + *Long shelf life food or other household necessities, which will be taken to the St Neots Food Bank.*

Sandra's first service will be the Gamlingay Harvest, this Sunday's All age Eucharist, when we will welcome Sandra to her new ministry alongside giving thanks for all our authorised and licensed lay ministers. Sandra's licensing service will be on Zoom at 2.30pm on Saturday afternoon 3rd October. All are welcome, to attend - the following information is provided.

For anyone else that would like to watch the service, they can register to attend the webinar. Please visit:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_1K7ZChchQ86qJPPfTtH09A

It will ask for first name, second name; email address and who you are supporting. There is no limit on how late one can register and zoom sends the URL through almost immediately.

Discipleship Course - The following message is from Jes Salt who will lead a course in the Deanery. Do be in touch if you would like to be added to this course.

'This is by way of a last call for attendees at the next Growing as a Disciple course. Thanks to Nicki and Hilary who have volunteered 6 people who wish to attend. We therefore have a viable course (to be run on Zoom), but if there are any others who might be interested then can you let me know this week please.

I should have said that this course will run on a weekday evening, to be decided.

Memorial Services have been agreed for the last Sunday in October. Please contact Hilary or Valerie for more information or to ask for something to be included. This will be an opportunity, as churches, to say 'goodbye' in a personal way to people for whom that has not been possible collectively during the pandemic. Memories of Sue Thorne, Vera Decker, Mary Booth and Sarah Wichett plus possible others will be shared at Gamlingay, and Marion Larkin and Jean Cross at Everton - others can be added. These services are in addition to the more general All Saints /All Souls services the following week, where we remember those whom we no longer see both in recent and more long term memory.

The Everton service will be at 4pm; the Gamlingay service will be at 9.30am followed by a short form of the Benefice communion.

Hilary

The Churchyard flowers - Philip Gorton

Everybody in Gamlingay must know of the two vast beech trees that grace the southern edge of the churchyard of St. Mary's. Some four years ago there was a footpath under them which was regularly used. The trees have now grown bigger and, as a consequence, the lowest branches now almost touch the ground.

This is a pity because for several years now we have been planting snowdrops, crocus and cyclamen under the branches. All the original plants are "spares" from our garden at The Emplins. The picture shows a small patch of the cyclamen which are now in full flower and worth a look.



Autumn cyclamen are curious things. After flowering the seed heads are set at the end of a coiled stem which uncoils itself when the seed is ripe. This action means that, given the right conditions, the mother corm can surround itself with little seedling cyclamen. Clearly, within our garden, we have the correct conditions because in most years we have an abundance of seedlings. These are allowed to grow for about a season. After that they can go into the churchyard.

When I have a spare moment in September I try to enlarge the patch. The first thing to do is to remove the ivy which spreads along the ground. Planting could not be more easy. As I clear the leaf mould I open up small depressions into which the seedlings are planted. The final act is to simply cover the corm and leave it tidy

At the western edge of the Beech tree area there is a much larger area of Snowdrops that can be seen in the spring. This patch is easier to expand than the cyclamen patch because here we have more plants and some of the clumps in the Churchyard can be subdivided.

Not to be outdone, my wife scatters crocus seeds amongst the cleared areas. I would dearly like to eventually cover all the area with flowers as, in my opinion, this would add to the sight of this area.

And more flowers from Ros and Alec's garden:

Alec says: "It's been a good year for the dahlias, pity the Village Show had to be cancelled!"



(You would undoubtedly have won prizes Alec - they are beautiful!)

IMPORTANT NOTICE!

For this week only

If you have any items to submit for the next newsletter please send them to Ian Parker
iangparker@hotmail.com

Thank You

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