

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



Weekly newsletter 6 November 2020



From Hilary:

As we all know, a second lockdown came into place in England on Thursday. There are differences from the one we lived through in the Spring and, although we've been told the intended end date is December 3rd, those of us who have the responsibility for planning are preparing for probably being unable to worship physically together before Christmas. However, there are differences this time - not only do we have the skills we developed in the last lockdown, but we are also allowed into our buildings for prayer and also for broadcasting services.

AND - Praise be, we have **broadband installed (AT LAST) in Gamlingay Church**. This should enable more reliable Zoom and other broadcasting from inside the church itself.

Let us Pray!

The Archbishops of the Church of England have called us all to a month of prayer and fasting during this month of November. The Church of England website has details. We will be joining in with this both corporately and individually, more details to follow.

Remembering those who have died

When I commissioned this painting from my sister Marcelle I asked her to produce something which was not specifically religious, but which would be a tribute to those who had died. I wanted something we could use that included Remembrance Sunday but was not specific to it. I suppose it was in the back of my mind that this might end up as a tribute to my sister herself, but not that it would be in use that way so soon. We had hoped that the effects of the treatment that had brought her back to us at this time last year would last longer, and even be followed by something that could give her still more time. Alas, that was not to be, but we give thanks for the extra time she had, which included making this work of art.

The picture is intended to stand on its own but is full of symbolism. The flowers and foliage in the picture are all connected with remembering and grief and include poppies for Remembrance Day. There are impressionistic suggestions of other symbols too - a yellow ribbon on the candle, the dove of peace/Holy Spirit taking flight in the light, the candle itself, light shining in darkness, and knots in the grass reminiscent of barbed wire.

Marcelle's funeral took place on Tuesday, a privilege to conduct at the same time as being a deeply emotional experience. Thank you everyone for kind words and prayers, including at the time of the funeral, your support so much appreciated.

May Marcelle rest in peace and rise in glory.



'Remembering' by Marcelle Seabourne

Remembrance Sunday

As has become usual in these strange times, no sooner have we published a plan than it has to be changed. Lockdown 2 has meant Remembrance Sunday's arrangements have changed. At first we were told 'no gatherings of any size indoors or out' then we have been told that, with many caveats, a minimal number of people can gather at a public War Memorial under the auspices of the local authority.



At Everton the ceremony at the War Memorial in the churchyard will still take place but with very few people on site and will include elements of the service which would have taken place in the church buildings. The church will be open for prayer and lighting a candle by individuals during the day and on November 11th.

The silence will be observed with the help of the ringing of the church bell (which can be heard all around the village) either side of the 2 minutes silence. Individuals are encouraged to observe the silence on their doorsteps.

In Gamlingay the ceremony at the War Memorial will **not** now take place in the usual way. Filming has taken place in advance before restrictions came in, with laying of wreaths and the reading of names. This will be broadcast along with a service at the Baptist church. The only people present will be Adrian and myself leading and preaching with technical support.



All our churches will still be open for private prayer and decorated with poppies both on Sunday and the following week, up to and including Remembrance Day itself.



Poppies on Gamlingay altar

Poppies with black cross centres

Halloween

The Light Party was enjoyed by all who took part. Some 30 families were involved and the evening included lighting candles in St Mary's in Gamlingay, filmed in advance.

Weekly Diary

Sunday November 8th Remembrance Sunday

- 8.30am Benefice Eucharist on Zoom.
10.45am Everton Act of Remembrance
at the War Memorial in the churchyard followed by service in church
10.45 Broadcast of a Ceremony at Gamlingay War Memorial, first part of a service at Gamlingay Baptist Church - live stream via GBC
Monday 7.00pm Shared PCCs Zoom meeting, followed by Everton PCC meeting
Tuesday 10.30am Bible Study
4.30pm Families meeting (Zoom meetings)
7.30pm Gamlingay PCC meeting
Wednesday No midweek communion

Sunday November 15th 2nd before Advent (23 after Trinity)

- 9.30am Benefice Zoom service
Tuesday 17th 10.30am Bible Study

Sunday November 22nd Christ the King (next before Advent)

- 9.30am Benefice Zoom service
Tuesday 24th 10.30am Bible Study

Grand Christmas Draw and Questionnaire

Everything is now ready for the assembly (a.k.a. envelope stuffing) of the letters, raffle tickets and questionnaire to go out to the Gamlingay and Hatleys Parish. The timing is not great as we enter the second lock-down but the printing is all done and we have had a generous donation from the Brogan Group. I'm hoping that you will be willing, as in past years, to stuff some of the envelopes (at home this time) and post them into a street nearby, this could be part of your daily exercise!

The questionnaire is a necessary part of our application for funding for the replacement of roof lead, other essential building repairs and internal re-ordering.

Please contact me either by email alechissett@hotmail.com or phone 01767 650052 if you are willing to help with this task.

Many thanks,
Alec.

CHRISTMAS CARDS



Valerie still has some Traidcraft Christmas cards. If you would like to see a selection please contact Valerie on 01767 650779 or vjm55@btinternet.com to arrange delivery. Traidcraft costs have already been paid so any further monies will go towards church funds.

Several people have asked recently about giving donations to the church.

Our preferred method of receiving funds is directly into the PCC bank account. The details are:

Barclays Bank
Sort code: 20-74-81
Account no: 30122807
Account name: Gamlingay with Hatleys PCC

If you feel able, please put your name or any other short text in the reference box of the payment.

If you are unable to pay online, cash and cheques are still very welcome. Either put through Hilary's door or Ian's (16 Brockwood Close).

THANK YOU.

'LINK TO HOPE' Shoeboxes

Every cloud has a silver lining! How true is that!

As in previous years, the Guild of St. Mary's, Gamlingay has been supporting the Link to Hope Shoebox Appeal. Due to the lockdown many local knitters have been hard at it and have produced a superb load of hats, scarves mittens etc., which have been shared between boxes for the elderly and boxes for families. Every box also has essentials such as toothbrushes and paste, flannels and soap, games and sweets. A team of ladies has sorted and filled 20 boxes and wrapped them in Christmas paper. They have now been taken to a local depot in Orwell for distribution to Romania, Moldova, Ukraine and Bulgaria.

Last year, as a thank-you, we were sent photographs of some of the people receiving their boxes. If anyone would like to see them, please ask me.

Chris Wareham



A selection of this year's boxes, wrapped, labelled and ready to go!



A reminder of some key contact details:

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Jane Gurney , Everton Churchwarden		
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