

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



Weekly newsletter 27 November 2020



From Hilary:

It has been so good to have time to focus on things domestic without risk of guilt during these last couple of weeks when I have been 'away at home'. Thank You to those who have supported this time by covering services etc. Although it has not been ideal in terms of a real break, the front garden at the Rectory does look better for it! The end of 'time off' has not quite worked out to be 'off' and I've failed to fit in any 'Retreat' during the last couple of weeks as I'd originally intended. I plan to take some Retreat time in Advent, which begins this Sunday, alongside and as part of making this a good Advent season - as I pray it will be for all of us. (*See below for how we will be marking the season.*)

Government's Faith Engagement Review

There is a not-very-well-publicised consultation seeking to gather evidence for the review which is being undertaken on behalf of the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government about how Government should engage with faith groups.

Please do engage with this important consultation and encourage anyone you know who has any connection at all with the church to complete the on-line form.

The consultation period closes at **11.45pm on 11 December 2020** and the link below takes you where you can fill in your response.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/independent-faith-engagement-review-call-for-evidence>

6pm Prayers during Lockdown 2

I will continue to be praying these prayers on Facebook Live every evening, either from home or from one of the churches - do join me whether on-line or privately in your own home. John Boocock is ringing a church bell in Gamlingay for this (except on Thursdays when it is me chiming the little bell). There are daily themes as well as a weekly prayer. I use the following every evening:

Keep us good Lord under the shadow of your mercy. Sustain and support the anxious, be with those who care for the sick, and lift up all who are brought low; that we may find comfort knowing that nothing can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Week 30 Nov- 6Dec

Lord Jesus Christ, in these dark and difficult days, we turn our hearts to you. In ages past, you have delivered our nation from disaster.

*Do it again, we pray. Give wisdom beyond human wisdom to our leaders,
Give strength beyond human strength to the NHS and all our frontline workers.*

Give comfort beyond human comfort to the elderly and all who grieve.

*Lord Jesus Christ, in these dark and difficult days, turn your face towards us,
have mercy upon us, and heal our land, we pray. Amen.*

Week 30 Nov- 6Dec

Loving God, your Son Jesus Christ came that we might have life and have it abundantly; pour out your blessing upon our nation;

where there is illness, bring your healing touch;

where there is fear, strengthen us with the knowledge of your presence;

where there is uncertainty, build us up in faith;

where there is dishonesty, lead us into truth;

where there is discord, may we know the harmony of your love;

this we ask in Jesus 'name. Amen.

Real Advent Calendars

There are 6 of these available after we have provided our children with one each. If you would like one please contact me. They cost around £3 but are available for free to give away to children (or receptive adults!) in your acquaintance. Just come and collect from the Rectory or let me know where to drop them off. These calendars tell the Christmas Story with a Fair-Trade chocolate behind each door. There is a booklet with the Christmas Story inside too.

Advent Windows in Gamlingay

The Jesse symbols are being used again this year for each day in Advent starting on Sunday and will be shared round Gamlingay village. Some are already prepared by the Sparks children for display in shops and other locations. Please let Sandra, Sarah or Hilary know if you would like to take part. You need to have a front-facing window and, if you sign up to host a window, we will deliver the card number and picture for you to decorate. You can use glitter/paint/pens etc., to decorate the picture so that it represents a gift and then display it in your window on the day of the number on the card. We would then ask you to take a photo and post it onto the St Mary's Facebook page adding a comment and the reading details to the post.

Advent Study

We are inviting people to join Zoom groups and/or receive the material for each week as we move through Advent together. The material will be following weekly themes and looking at the Sunday Gospel, linking the Sunday Gospel and the theme. Chris Miller is leading Week 1 on the theme of Hope.

Advent Children's Group

We are joining with GBC to prepare a video for each week in Advent. This will be shared on Facebook and YouTube, focusing on the Gospel for each week and the weekly themes of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. We are also planning a challenge for each week - watch for more information.

Services and Events

(all are Benefice services regardless of where they are located)

Sunday 29th November - Advent Sunday (all Zoom services until we can meet together)

9.30am Benefice Eucharist (possibly in Gamlingay Church)

4pm Benefice Advent Carol Service (possibly from Everton Church)

Monday 30th November Benefice Wardens' Meeting 4pm Zoom

Tuesday 1st December 7.30pm Advent Adult Group Zoom 4.30pm Families Zoom

Wednesday 2nd December 9.30am Midweek Communion

Thursday 3rd December 1.30 Funeral Cambridge Crem Thomas Jones

8pm Adult Open Meeting followed by 9pm Compline

Sunday 6th December - 2nd in Advent (venues TBC in line with Government guidance)

9.30am All Age Eucharist (possibly from Gamlingay Church)

4pm Evening Service (possibly in Everton Church)

Monday 7th December Benefice Wardens' Meeting 4pm Zoom

Tuesday 8th December 7.30pm Advent Adult Group Zoom 4.30pm Families Zoom

Wednesday 9th December 9.30am Midweek Communion

Thursday 10th December 1.30 Funeral Cambridge Crem Thomas Jones

8pm Adult Open Meeting followed by 9pm Compline

Provisional Advance Notice

Sunday 11th December - 3rd in Advent (venues TBC in line with Government guidance)

9.30am Eucharist (possibly in Gamlingay Church)

4pm Evening Service (possibly in Everton Church)

Sunday 18th December - 4th in Advent

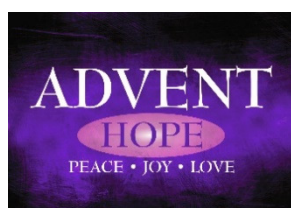
9.30am Eucharist

4pm Benefice Christmas Carol Service

From Chris :

ADVENT FAITH GROUPS

A reminder that the first meeting of the Advent Faith Groups this year will be on Tuesday 1st December. The meeting will begin at 7.30pm and will be via Zoom. We shall be discussing the gospel for the previous Sunday.



If you would like to be involved, please either let Chris Miller know (contact details at the end of this Newsletter) or sign up on the notice in church. In this way we can keep in touch and pass on any appropriate information either by email, telephone, or hard copy.

THANK YOU!
To Tina Wooding

Sarah Titmus has asked us to say a huge THANK YOU to Tina for setting up 'Betty's Books' at Woodview Farm Shop last year. It works on a bring-and-buy basis and, so far, she has raised £300 for the church roof fund as well as supporting other local charities.

A brilliant initiative from Tina – thank you so much from us all!

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

From Alec:

Gamlingay Co-op

Thank you to everyone for your support through the Co-op Community Fund. Just by shopping at your local Co-op and choosing St Mary's Church as your local charity you have raised an amazing amount : St Mary's Church - £1,597 Friends of St Mary's Church - £1,243

THANK YOU to Lee Deason and his great team at Gamlingay Co-op!

Community Consultation Questionnaire

Many thanks to everyone who has completed the questionnaire and returned it with their raffle ticket money. The results from this will help the PCC decide what work to proceed with when we make the application to the Lottery Heritage Fund. We are expecting huge competition for funding when applications open again, sometime next year, so we need to be ready and have a strong commitment from the community as well as regular church goers.

If you haven't already done so, please return your questionnaire to me as soon as possible. I sent out an electronic version for those who would prefer to return it online.

Easy Fund Raising

Donations have been coming in steadily over the last few months from our friends who shop online and have registered with <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk> thank you! If you haven't yet registered it is very simple to sign up just follow the link.



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