

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



## Weekly newsletter 4 December 2020



### *From Hilary:*

Many people put in effort to make Advent Sunday under Lockdown 2 work as it did. THANK YOU to the group who took part in making an Advent Carol Service happen under the rules governing worship. Huge commiserations to those who could not take part 'in person'. I know those who are able/required to be there to make a broadcast happen know that they are privileged to do so. Well done everyone. It has been very hard work sorting out what we can safely do within our personal and collective limitations, and the regulations, to make Christmas a good celebration this year - albeit in a different way from normal. THANK YOU Wardens for working with me on this. We know there will be disappointment that we simply can't manage the larger, face-to-face gatherings that happen at Carol Services and Christingle, nor can we offer as many services as we would like. We shall, all the same, be celebrating but differently - see below for details. Do get involved if you can. If you are not sure, give Chris or myself a ring or drop us a line and if we can't help you ourselves we will put you in touch with someone who can. We are consulting on a midnight communion, to see if we can cope with likely numbers - watch this space. We can promise there will be a service, and it will be 'zoomed'. The issue is whether we can safely manage the numbers who might wish to attend.

### **What to do (and not to do) under Tier 2 rules in church**

See elsewhere in this newsletter for details of service times and how they can be accessed. Where congregations are present, individuals must adhere to the guidelines for Tier 2 which require that there is **no socialising indoors of more than two households**. This means staying well away from one another in church with minimum moving about on arriving and leaving. Congregations are required to **wear face coverings** unless exempt for particular reasons, and to **refrain from singing** unless you are 'choir'.

### **Government's Faith Engagement Review**

There is still time, but only a few days now. Please do fill this in and ask others to do so. The consultation period closes at **11.45pm on 11 December 2020**, 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 end**

This has been the last week of Lockdown 2 in which we were called to prayer, as we go into tiered Covid regulations (some of which look quite a bit like a lockdown!). The prayer here is worth continuing through Advent I feel. I will be maintaining my own prayer discipline for Advent by saying Morning Prayer with Chris and Sandra - we are working at making that happen with at least one of us each day joining where we can.

*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- 6 Dec

*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.*

### Advent Windows in Gamlingay

There are a few days left to engage with this. The Jesse symbols are being used again this year for each day in Advent, starting on Sunday. Do let Sandra, Sarah or Hilary know if you would like one. You need to have a front-facing window to put something up in. 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 display so that it represents a gift. Then display it in your window on the day of the number on the card, take a photo and post it onto the St Mary's Facebook page adding a comment and the reading details to the post. If you would like to host a window we can provide everything else if you let us know.

### Advent Study

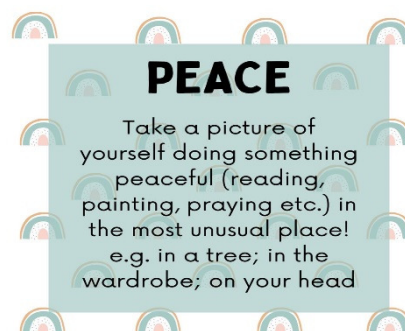
Zoom group started this last Tuesday at 7.30pm. Sessions are 'stand alone' so it is not too late to join - let Chris, Valerie or Hilary know if you would like to, so we can let you have material. We are looking at the Sunday Gospel, linked to the weekly theme. Hilary is leading Week 2 (8th December) on the theme of **Peace**.

### Advent with children and families

Sandra from our Benefice and Abi from GBC have prepared a video for each week in Advent. The first went out this last week, with a challenge on the week's theme of Hope - due in on Saturday - pictures with nature, which will be shared on Facebook and YouTube.

This week's challenge is on the theme of Peace.....

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## Services and Events (all are Benefice services regardless of where they are located)

**Sunday 6th December - 2nd in Advent** congregations permitted but with no socialising

**9.30am** All Age Eucharist (from Gamlingay Church) and on Zoom (followed by Gamlingay draw live on Zoom)

**4pm** Evening Service (from Everton Church)

Monday 7th December : Benefice Wardens' Meeting 4pm Zoom

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

Wednesday 9th December: 9.30am Midweek Communion

**Sunday 13th December - 2nd in Advent** congregations permitted but with no socialising

**9.30am** Eucharist (from Gamlingay Church) and on Zoom

**4pm** Evening Service (from Everton Church)

Monday 14th December: Benefice Wardens' Meeting 4pm Zoom

Tuesday 15th December Zoom: 4.30pm Families Zoom, 7.30pm Advent Adult Group

Wednesday 9th December: 9.30am Midweek Communion

### Advance notice of December Benefice Services

**Sunday December 20<sup>th</sup> Advent 4: Love** Sunday Services Probably Tier 2 Covid rules – TBC

9.30 Gamlingay Eucharist (Advent) from Gamlingay Church – Zoom and FB Live

11.00am TBC Christmas Service at Hatley St George

4pm Zoom Benefice Carol Service (broadcast from Everton, limited congregation)

**December 24<sup>th</sup> Christmas Eve** services under Covid rules – numbers to be managed  
4pm 'Build a Christingle' on-line service for the villages – *on-line booking, no church service*  
11.30pm First Communion of Christmas (Midnight Mass) from Gamlingay Church  
Zoom and FB live, *(face-to-face TBC – notice in advance required if this is available)*

**December 25<sup>th</sup> Christmas Day** services under Covid rules – numbers to be managed  
8am Christmas Holy Communion at Everton  
10am Christmas Family Eucharist at Gamlingay

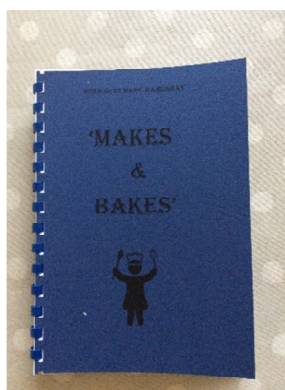
**Sunday December 27<sup>th</sup> Christmas 1**  
9.30am Benefice Eucharist on Zoom



## GRAND DRAW

A reminder from Alec that the Grand Christmas Draw will take place on 6<sup>th</sup> December, after the Sunday 9:30 a.m. service in Gamlingay church.

There are still some raffle books at the back of church to purchase so why not buy a few more and increase your chances of winning one of our fabulous prizes! Please return all stubs to Alec by Friday night.



## GUILD OF ST MARY, GAMLINGAY

**We are pleased to announce that the Guild of St. Mary's 'MAKES & BAKES' recipe books are now printed and available for purchase at £5 a copy. We have 110 books, of which 96 have already been reserved!**

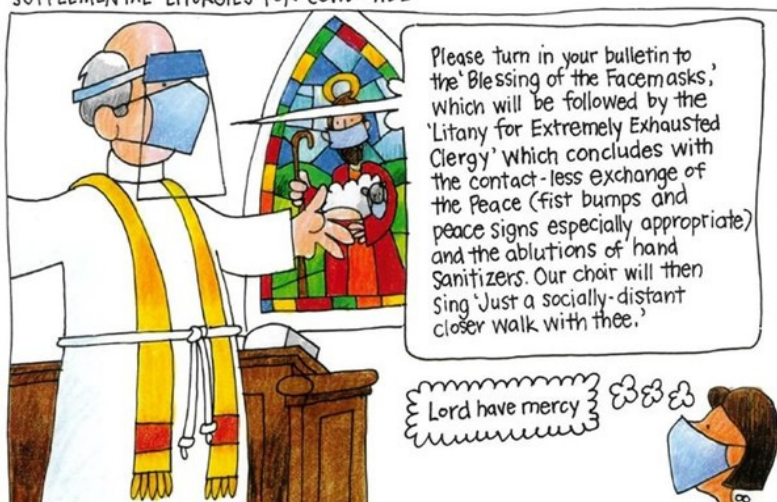
***All proceeds from sales will be donated to St. Mary's Church, Gamlingay***

**Order your copy now and don't miss out on the publication of the year!**

Phone : 01767 650489 OR email : [brenda.elcome@ymail.com](mailto:brenda.elcome@ymail.com)

*Anne Bunker thought this would give us all a much-needed chuckle!*

### SUPPLEMENTAL LITURGIES FOR COVID-TIDE



## Everton Church Clock Restoration

On Thursday 10th December at approximately 9 am, the Cumbria Clock Company will be removing the clock face and hands of Everton Church. The company will access the clock by ropes from the tower platform above and we are hoping the Biggleswade Chronicle will be there along with the school children to view the event.

If you are passing the church please do take time to view the work, it should be quite a historical event.

This is the first step in the restoration of the clock and by Easter 2021 the ancient virgin-bell should strike the hour.



Find our church on Facebook @St Mary's Church Everton-cum-Tetworth

*Frances Allan, Everton Church Tower Captain.*



## A reminder of some key contact details:

<b>Hilary Young</b> , Parish Priest	<a href="mailto:hilaryafyoung@gmail.com">hilaryafyoung@gmail.com</a>	650587
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<b>Ann Naseby</b> , Everton PCC Secretary	<a href="mailto:annpnaseby@btinternet.com">annpnaseby@btinternet.com</a>	
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