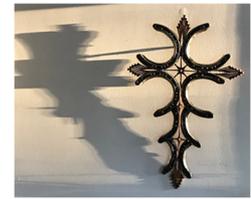


ST MARY'S GAMLINGAY, HATLEY ST GEORGE & ST MARY'S EVERTON



Weekly newsletter 11 December 2020



From Hilary:

It appears we don't have things right with services for Christmas (not that they could ever be for everyone, even without Covid limitations). As priest serving two parishes (three/four communities) I want to do the best for as many people as possible. I am very willing to turn out for an 8am service on festival days even if it is only for a very few people, particularly if this is the first time for a while and the only opportunity for them to take part. At the same time, I want to make worship available to families and individuals of all ages and to enable those who do not attend church often to do so on this special occasion. Quite a large circle to square!

Obviously, there is a limit to what I can do and I hope and believe that this is understood. I always offer my best efforts as well as working to take responsibility for my own health - trying to set an example to 'do what you can, not what you can't'. So, I really need you to be honest with me, and yourself, about which services you can and hope to attend. The options are set out in a separate communication. Please respond as soon as you can, and definitely by the end of Sunday when we will be publishing the finalised Christmas arrangements. In particular, we might need to manage the 11.30pm Christmas Eve service for numbers, so let us know if you plan to attend and with how many others. The same applies to the morning services, and particularly we need to hear from Everton and Hatley people concerning 8am as a service time and about communion on Christmas Day.

In the past few years Everton people have not had a communion service on Christmas morning. Those who wished to receive communion have attended the midnight service at Gamlingay or the 8am in Hatley, and the service in Everton has been at 10am with carols and readings led by Chris Miller. Last year I offered an 8am said Communion service which was enjoyed by a small number of people, and the 10am carol service also took place. This year I had felt that it was important to offer communion and to lead that in Everton, however it has not proved satisfactory to offer 8am as a main service with carols and communion. I, therefore, need to know if anyone in Everton who wants communion would be unable to attend Gamlingay at midnight or Hatley at 8am, as the 10 am service led by Chris Miller at Everton would clash with the Christmas Day communion service at Gamlingay.

Chris and I are happy to offer these services but are very aware that communion in person has been missed in the smaller churches during Covid.

Services online only are taking place as follows :

The Christmas Carol Service on Sunday 20th.

This will, as usual, feature the Christmas Story told through readings and carols. But this year there is one service between the three churches, and it will all be broadcast so participants can sing along freely in their own homes. Pre-recorded material will be inserted into the 'live' Zoom broadcast from a location yet to be determined. You will see your own church featured in the videos used. There is still time to be involved in the recordings so that congregational carols can comprise lots of voices. Please contact Chris Miller or Hilary for a track to sing to and instructions on the simple procedure to record - a smartphone to record and another device linked to headphones is all that's required.

'Build a Christingle' on line celebration at 4pm on Christmas Eve ...



This will have been pre-recorded, to be broadcast live on Youtube and FaceBook at the published time. Those who register (it's not just for children!) will be able to collect their Christingle Pack from one of the churches, containing materials and instructions for making a Christingle and information



on the service. Packs can be delivered in the villages by request. We hope to have a goodly number of people on doorsteps in the villages at 5pm, singing along to 'Silent Night' with their lit Christingles that evening - let us hope and pray that it will be dry!

Continuing Advent Study

The Zoom group continued this week with 'Peace' led by Hilary, following Chris' helpful input on 'Hope' last week. Next week on Tuesday at 7.30pm we are looking at 'Joy' with Pastor Adrian. As these sessions are 'stand alone' it is still OK to join - let Chris, Valerie or Hilary know so that you can receive the material and zoom link - you don't need to attend the Zoom to use the written material. We are looking at the Sunday Gospel linked to the weekly theme.

Advent Continues with children and families

Sandra and Abi's videos are going up on the church Facebook sites. This last week the 'Peace' challenge was issued in church. This week we hope to share some of the outcomes, alongside this Sunday's theme of 'Joy'. Why not have a go at this challenge? I think some people have already done so. In fact, there is a real intent to recognise and celebrate Christmas this year, with lights outside many more homes than usual and an overwhelming new response to Counsellor Harriet Golding's initiative to help people give to food banks through having items collected from their internet shopping.

JOY

Create a display in your window to give joy to people walking past. It could be a Christmas scene, a drawing you've done, or some nice words!

Services and Events this week

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

Sunday 13th December Advent 3 congregations permitted but with no socialising

9.30am Eucharist (from Gamlingay Church) also on Zoom

4pm Evening Service (from Everton Church) also on Zoom

Monday 14th December: 4pm Benefice Wardens' Meeting

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

Wednesday 16th December: 9.30am Midweek Communion

Sunday 20th December - 4th in Advent congregations permitted but with no socialising

? *TBC 8 am Said communion from Everton or Hatley*

9.30am Eucharist for Advent 4 (from Gamlingay Church) and on Zoom

TBC 11.00am Nativity service with optional communion afterwards at Hatley St George

4pm Zoom Carol service with recorded carols from all three churches.

Monday 21st December: 4pm Benefice Wardens' Meeting

Tuesday 22nd December: 4.30pm Families Zoom, 7.30pm Advent Adult Group

Wednesday 23rd December: 9.30am Midweek Communion

12.30 Funeral at Everton Roy Burrige RIP

SANTA CLAUS, FATHER CHRISTMAS, ST NICHOLAS



Some cheer is being brought to the village with a visit from the famous character in red. Cindy from Top Dog will be arranging for a trip round the village in a horse-drawn vehicle, collecting for the churches (shared between St Mary's and GBC) on **Sunday December 20th**. The visit will begin at about 11am from St Mary's church, when there may be some spontaneous, suitably distanced carol singing outside. There will be a tour of Gamlingay - the route round the village will be published in advance on Social Media, and in this newsletter next week.



Christmas Social



It somehow wouldn't be the same without our annual Christmas Social, so I am hoping to organise one this year via Zoom. It will take place on Friday 18th December at 7.30pm and will follow the usual format of Christmas carols interspersed with items provided by you! If you are interested in attending and especially if you could provide an item for our entertainment, then would you please let me know. I will then confirm that it is happening and send out a Zoom link for people to join.

Chris Miller

If anyone would like to help put together (Covid Safely!) a plate of party food for the evening to be delivered to participants on the day, please contact Hilary. Likewise, please contact me if you would like to order a plate of party food. The idea is to provide this as hospitality - donations to church funds welcome.

Menu: Cheese straws, sausage rolls, creamy dip, selection of dipping veg (Carrot and celery) Choice of bottled drink - red or white wine (large or small bottle) small bottle soft drink or water.

Hilary

££££ Money matters ££££

It's been a tough year...for everyone...including our church community. Our income this year is much lower than normal:

- no services during lockdown periods, so no cash collections
- very few bookings at the church hall
- no weddings
- some people, for perfectly understandable reasons, have had to reduce their regular giving
- no major fund-raising events

However, a lot of our expenditure has remained the same – insurance, keeping some heat in the building, some essential repair costs to the hall and the cottage and most of all, the Ministry Share – what we pay to the Diocese of Ely, largely to fund a full-time incumbent. In 2020, the amount we have been asked to pay is £38,219. By the end of this month, we will have paid just over £31,000 of this. Although the money raised from the Christmas Draw, Guild recipe books and the Christmas catalogue have been fantastic, it hasn't made up anywhere near what we normally are able to raise in a year. This month, we have had to also fund a new boiler in the cottage and some significant electrical maintenance work. We are also planning a much needed major upgrade to the sound system in the Church. (The PCC have agreed that part of this cost will come from our Fabric Fund). Some of the expenditure on the cottage and the Share will have to come from our reserves because we are likely to run at a deficit this year. It is looking very unlikely that we will be able to meet the £7,000 shortfall in the Share though. If anybody feels able to help in any way, however small, towards the general costs of the Church, or specifically if preferred the sound system upgrade, the PCC would be extremely appreciative.

Any additional payments may be made by cheque or bank transfer to the PCC. Please reference any direct payments as "2020 help".

Sort code: 20-74-81

Account no: 30122807

Account name: Gamlingay with Hatleys PCC

Thank you so much.

Ian.

GRAND CHRISTMAS DRAW AND COMMUNITY CONSULTATION QUESTIONNAIRE

A huge thank you to everyone who bought raffle tickets and for the many generous donations. The total raised for church funds was just over £1,500, an excellent result. In addition we have received generous prize donations from a number of businesses and individuals, all of whom have sponsored this event for the last few years – **THANK YOU**. The draw took place last Sunday after the morning service.

<u>Prize</u>	<u>Donor</u>	<u>Winner</u>
£100 Cash	The Brogan Group	Sue Steel
Christmas Hamper	Morrisons	Jan Cooper
Fruit Hamper	Wood View Farm Shop	Mrs. D. Standage
Christmas cake	Ros Hissett	Mrs. P. Warren
Christmas Wreath	Sarah Titmus	Elaine Dolling
Christmas Hamper	Various	Sally Tokens
Bottle of Gin	Phillipa Smalls	Ms. Shillam
Potted plant (Orchid)	Waresley Garden Centre	Maddy Marsh
Basket of Toiletries	Ann Clarke	W. G. Arnold
Box of Roses Chocolates	Co-op	Chris and Mike Wareham
Box of Quality Street	Eileen Riglen	Brenda and David Elcome
Box of biscuits	Eileen Riglen	Steven Butler
Bottle of red wine	David Elcome	Amanda Hardy
Bottle of wine	Gerry Brunt	LJ's
Bottle of red wine	Rosemary Abbott	R. C. Briggs
Canvas bag set	Eileen Riglen	Monica Dadswell
Jars of honey	Sebastian Kindersley	Sold separately

In addition to the raffle tickets, a questionnaire was sent out and I am pleased to report that I have received over 100 replies. **It is not too late!** If you didn't respond, the questionnaire can be found on the St. Mary's Church website, please follow this link:

<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/13924/news/>

Alec Hissett

A reminder of some key contact details:

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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