

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



Weekly newsletter 18 December 2020



Merry
Christmas

From Hilary:

There won't be a Newsletter for the Christmas weekend, but do look out for one the following week when we will know more about January plans. We continue to live very much week to week, expecting that there could be changes to rules on safety though even in Tier 3, at the moment, public worship is still allowed.

And in this, the last newsletter of 2020, A huge **THANK YOU** to.....

Brenda and Ian for all the work that has gone into providing this communication over these last difficult 8 months of 2020.

Alec and Chris in Gamlingay and **Jane G** (with support from Jane B) in Everton for their support and hard work and (above all) patience during this unprecedented year.

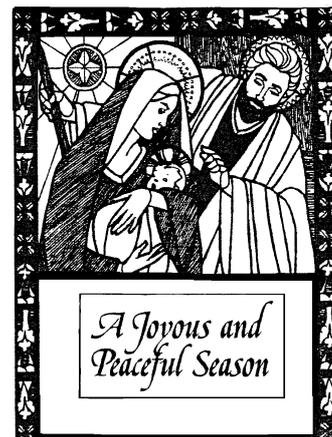
Jane Orchiston, Alec and others who have worked so hard to make the fundraising events this end of the year work so well.

All of you for when you have hung on, worked hard to keep at least some things going somehow, and been kind and understanding when things have not worked out as well as was intended.

And...

Norman and Hilary wish all our Benefice friends everything good for Christmas and New Year 2021

'May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that the power of the Holy Spirit may abound in hope'.



Gamlingay Council Christmas Tree

The tree generously provided by a donor and decorated by village volunteers under the auspices of the Council is lit up after a hiatus resulting from water damage to the external connection for power.

THANK YOU Johnny for seeing to the repair and getting us connected again.



Everton Church Clock

Watched by school children and interested adults alike, an historic moment saw Everton clock face and hands removed for repair by two abseiling clock experts on Thursday 10th December. The last repair and service was back in the 1950s.



The Christmas Carol Service this Sunday 20th... on Zoom only

Congregations are not allowed to sing for safety reasons, so do join in on Zoom and when you can, sing along to your heart's content, as loudly as you like (with microphone on mute!)

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

.... will have been pre-recorded to be broadcast live on You Tube and Face Book 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 is dry!

Last Advent Study Evening...

...is on Tuesday at 7.30pm when we are looking at 'Love' with Sandra leading. It is still OK to join even if you haven't done so before - let Chris, Valerie or Hilary know to 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 with children and families

Sandra and Abi's videos are going up on the church Facebook sites - this last week the 'Joy' challenge was issued in church. This week we hope to share some of the outcomes, alongside this Sunday's theme of 'Love'. This might be a bit harder than last week for some, I'm looking forward to seeing some adult responses!



Services and Events this week:

Sunday 20th December Advent 4

8.00am Christmas Said Communion - Everton
9.30am Advent 4 Benefice Communion (zoom available)
11.00am Christmas Nativity service at Hatley St George
4.00pm Benefice Carols Service Broadcast - Zoom only

Wednesday 23rd December

9.30am : Midweek Communion - Gamlingay (zoom available)

Christmas Eve

4pm Build-a-Christingle broadcast - **on line only**, Facebook and YouTube
11.30pm **First Communion of Christmas (Midnight Mass) –**
(NB: please let us know if you plan to be in church)

Christmas Day

8.00am Christmas Said Communion - Hatley
10.00am Christmas Family Communion- Gamlingay (zoom available)
10.00am Christmas Carols and readings - Everton

Sunday December 27th

9.30am Benefice Service of Holy Communion on Zoom only.



REPAIRS TO ST. MARY'S CHURCH

Not wholly unexpected is that the cool weather of the last 10 days has delayed the work a little but more significant is the additional work identified once the parapets were dismantled and the cracks to the buttresses fully opened up. This means that the work will not now be completed before Christmas.

The contractors will shut down this Friday and return on Tuesday 5th January and the works are expected to last about 2 weeks. Once again, we would ask you to report any suspicious activity to the police immediately.

Many thanks for your co-operation.

Alec Hissett.



THE CHRISTMAS ROBIN

How did the Christmas robin get its red breast?

One legend says that it happened in the stable at Bethlehem - before that robins were just little brown birds! Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus were being kept warm by a fire made of sticks. As the fire died down a robin came and fanned the embers with its wings. As the flames reappeared the robin's breast was singed and has stayed red ever since – a mark of its kindness!

MAY WE ALL EXPERIENCE THE JOY AND KINDNESS OF THE CHRISTMAS ROBIN!

Look out Santa's on his way ...

Santa will be travelling around Gamlingay this Sunday, 20th December, and stopping off near your home. Please let your friends and neighbours know that one of Santa's little helpers will be collecting for the St. Mary's and the Baptist Church.

Here are the route and stop off points:



11 a.m. Start at St Marys Church
 Church Lane
 Poppyfields
 Chapelfield
 Mill Street
 Green End
 Fairfield
 Greenacres
 Elizabeth Way
 Northfield Close
 Dolphins Way
 Murfitt Way
 Gray's Road
 Jannah
 Church Street
 Stocks Lane
 Finishing at Gamlingay Baptist Church

And a reminder about giving donations to the church especially needed at this time as was detailed in the last newsletter.

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 '2020 help' 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.

A reminder of some key contact details:

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| 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 |