

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



Weekly newsletter 22 January 2021



From Hilary:

The first week of closed churches has gone quickly, and very strange it feels to be at the altar in Gamlingay with just Norman in church with me. We still put on the lights and sound system, so the hymns are played around the church and the readers heard throughout the church which gives us, at least, a sense of it being inhabited by more than just ourselves. What a blessing it is to have the internet there now. Praise God!

We will be trying out in Everton - though the internet, via phone signal, is yet to be proven sufficiently reliable to carry the Zoom congregation.

We have been taking stock of communications and are aware that there are places where things may not be working as well as we had hoped. Of course, some of this can't be fixed but the will is there, so do keep bearing with us and, most importantly, helping us to help one another. Is there a neighbour or member of the church family you might get in touch with? Might there be someone who needs to be put in touch with me but won't take the initiative themselves? Do be encouraged to make that call or send that message.

Churches Open for Prayer?

Decisions have been most reluctantly taken, and are under review, to keep the churches locked apart from specific times during this heightened risk period for Covid infection. The Parish Priest, Wardens and PCC are legally responsible for ensuring the safety of all church users, and we have been urged only to open churches where the safety of all visitors can be guaranteed. As we are unable to staff the churches when open, we are opening the two Parish Churches for a day at a time with safe intervals in between.

At Present, but under review:

In Everton the church has been open on Sundays only, but with the key available for other visits,

In Hatley the church can be opened on request.

In Gamlingay the church is open after morning services on Sunday and Wednesday during daylight hours. Please be in touch if you have strong feelings about any of this.

Thank you everyone for patience and understanding in these challenging times. Do please forgive where stamina and concentration fall short but be assured everyone is working hard and doing their best.

Much love and many blessings, Hilary.

What's on this next week (Sunday 24th-Saturday 30th)

Sunday 24th January Benefice Zoom Eucharist

Hilary Young is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Benefice Eucharist Epiphany 3, Time: Jan 24, 2021 09:30 AM London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89546213078?pwd=SIVad1Q3cXd6TVViOUxUZTRPamNuUT09>

Meeting ID: 895 4621 3078 **Passcode:** 818531

Every day : Morning Prayer

This said 'office' is led by either Chris, Sandra or myself, with others responding. We welcome company, so do be in touch or just turn up and listen in. We follow the lectionary readings and psalms for the day, use seasonal responses and pray for the churches, our communities and the wider world. At present we are mainly conducting this office from homes. Please send prayer requests for that service but **please ensure you have permission from anyone you ask us to name aloud (any of us will pray privately of course)**. To join Morning Prayer:

Hilary Young is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting. Topic: Morning Prayer. Time: This is a recurring meeting open at 8am daily

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82059917704?pwd=ZURoN0xGMVFyekgySk53R1h2am9Gdz09>

Meeting ID: 820 5991 7704. Passcode: 621586

Monday 25th January

4pm Benefice Wardens' Meeting

This is a weekly meeting, during these Covid times, to enable developments to be considered. Do be in touch with Jane G and Jane B in Everton, Chris Miller and Alec Hissett in Gamlingay with any concerns. They will bring these, at their discretion, for reflection at the meetings. My special thanks to these people when they are able to give this time to support the decisions of the Benefice.

Tuesday 26th January

Bible Study looking back at the Sunday readings, offering opportunity to explore with the Sunday's preacher what the readings mean for us.

Hilary Young is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting. Topic: Tuesday Bible Study

Time: This is a recurring meeting open 10am Tuesdays

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84472818795?pwd=TWxKNnc4cFMzdTNISU80UnBCdTJ3Zz09>

Meeting ID: 844 7281 8795. Passcode: 023089

Families 'learning together' time. Preparations for the following Sunday and preparations for Communion (confirmation for some) Please ask for the Zoom if you or someone you know is interested.

Wednesday 27th January

9.30am Midweek Communion - a said and slightly shortened version of the communion service, again broadcast on Zoom, from Gamlingay Church.

Hilary Young is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting. Topic: Wednesday Communion Time:

This is a recurring meeting 9.30am each Wednesday

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85779595724?pwd=emtPNktraUVIV1hVTjZ0TIBTWdVVUT09>

Meeting ID: 857 7959 5724. Passcode: 958554

Thursday 28th January

8pm Adults 'learning together' time - a safe place to ask whatever questions seem relevant that week, however trivial or unorthodox they might seem, in the light of what the Bible says and who Jesus is. Please ask for the Zoom link if you are interested.

Sunday 31st January

Candlemas celebrations (presentation of Christ in the temple).

Epiphany season ends on Tuesday 2nd February.



This week's jigsaw...

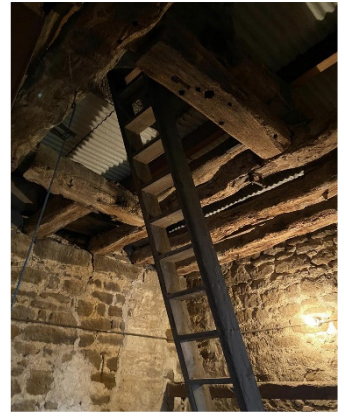
<https://www.jigsawplanet.com/?rc=play&pid=28e8e1916d51>

*Several people have been in touch to say how much they are enjoying these puzzles – **thank you Mervyn** for providing us with them. The Gamlingay one took me (Brenda) about 25 minutes to complete but Ros, the expert, did it in 18 mins! This one took me 23 mins – your challenge is to beat me! (When you have finished you are told how long it has taken you).*

Everton Church in the snow – Photo provided by Richard Edwards.

News from Everton

Everton-cum-Tetwoth PCC are busy moving forward with work on the Church building, clock, bell, tower and roof. All work is planned to be completed during 2021. It's a busy time and we're ticking a lot of boxes on our to-do list. Many of the jobs are major tasks listed on the quinquennial (a five-year inspection) report and these must be our priority to ensure we safeguard our beautiful Church for the next generation. The PCC have established a new working group, one that will hereafter be known as "The Building Group". The Group will be working side by side with the PCC. We are delighted to be on the final stretch of the faculty for the repair of the Clock and Bell. A grant to make up the shortfall will be applied for in the next few weeks but we must wait until May for the decision. We are hoping for a positive outcome.



A view of the tower leading onto the roof

How wonderful it will be to see the clock back in place and hear the Church strike the hour. Thank you to everyone in the village for their care and dedication to our place of worship. Let's look forward to Easter and Pray for a brighter spring.

*Frances Allan
Tower Captain*

From Alec Hissett...

Fundraising

You will have seen from Hilary's report in last week's Newsletter that, like many others, our church finances have taken quite a battering over the last year. It looks like our traditional fundraising activities will not be possible before the summer and so it is now necessary to look for alternative ideas. If you would like to be involved, either by providing ideas or putting them into practice, please contact me. I am planning to setup a meeting via Zoom in the next couple of weeks and would appreciate your involvement. Email alechissett@hotmail.com or telephone 01767 650052.

Electoral Roll

We still don't know if the APCM will go ahead in March but are still working towards 7th March. In order to vote at that meeting you will need to be on the Parish Electoral Roll. If you would like to be added or are unsure if you are already registered please contact me.

Alec

Food Bank and Community Fridge - Need Project Hub

Progress so far -

Alms house Trustees are generously leasing the Chapel for this initiative and work is moving apace to equip and staff this Need project Hub - more details will follow as they emerge. Our thanks to Sebastian Kindersley for his support. The first volunteer has been in touch - THANK YOU.

We will need people to staff the fridge, which is a 'swap' place for all to use.

We will also need people to make up parcels and to take them out.

There is also some admin required, systems are being set up in the next few weeks.

How can you help?

Continue to donate non-perishable items of food and other domestic provision via Hilary, Gerry, the Co-Op, GBC or Harriet Gould (see below)

There will be a few weeks before the full process is up and running but meanwhile all donations will go to projects supporting those in need, be that Trussell Trust, Need or Cambridge-based homeless projects.

Offer to help collect, process and deliver donations - there will be recruitment and training put in place to ensure best matching of volunteer time and skills to the tasks required.

Make a financial contribution to support this work - there will be some ongoing cost of premises and some modest start-up costs to make the chapel a suitable base. Hilary or Adrian will be pleased to receive donations which will become the base of the funding for the local hub.



Gamlingay Councillor Harriet Gould is running an initiative to help internet food shoppers contribute to the food banks. She will collect from people's homes if they get in touch. If you want to add something to your internet grocery shop, here is Harriet's list of things that are particularly of use at the moment. Contact Harriet via Facebook Messenger, or 07817 003830 or harriet@harrietgould.co.uk

We are continuing to produce this newsletter every week into 2021. Please let me have any articles or pictures by Tuesday evening each week to Brenda.elcome@ymail.com

There have been a couple of unfortunate occasions when people have, as far as they are aware, sent me items for inclusion in the newsletter but I have never received them, so they do not appear. I am not sure why this has happened but in order to avoid it happening again I will, from now on, immediately acknowledge every item received. If you do not get an acknowledgement, please try sending again and if that doesn't produce a response ring me on 01767 650489.

The newsletter is intended for the whole Benefice and it is good to have input from all quarters (or do I mean thirds?!) - please keep it coming.

Brenda Elcome

A reminder of some key contact details:

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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