

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



Weekly newsletter 29 January 2021



From Hilary:

This Sunday is the last of Epiphany (which ends officially on Tuesday 2nd February). We will be celebrating the visit of Jesus' parents to the Temple with him as a baby, the story told in Luke's Gospel. This is where the song (canticle) most used at Evensong, the Nunc Dimittis, comes from. Also known as the Song of Simeon, it is sung by the old priest as he recognises Jesus as the promised Messiah. Our Sunday service will have more about Simeon and Anna.

This year, above all, I want to take the themes of Advent, Christmas and Epiphany with me into the next months, although my lights (well, most of them) and last of the decorations will have to come down this weekend. But, we do all so need to keep on celebrating who Jesus is and to receive the spiritual gifts of hope, peace, joy and love so that we can live them and show them. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. Let us continue to seek and live in that light so it can shine out through us for others. This Sunday's theme is Jesus, light of the world, recognised by Simeon 'to be a light to lighten the gentiles'. Let us look for that light in our lives.

Every blessing

Hilary

Please join in - make a candle holder:



Traditionally candles for the year were blessed at Candlemas. We no longer work after dark by candlelight, but we will be using candles for the service on Sunday, as we celebrate the light. You are invited to make a candle holder to share at the morning service - a simple way to do this is to paste tissue paper onto a glass or clear plastic container to put a night light candle in (PVA glue dries clear and makes a good simple 'varnish') - there are battery-operated nightlights available for safety, if you want one just ask me. Also do be in touch if you would like one made for you. The young people are making theirs and there will be some spare or, if you would like to make your own, we can provide some materials which can be left on your doorstep - just let us know (contact details at the end of the Newsletter as usual).



(The candle holders pictured here were made by Ashleigh Dickerson.)

Looking ahead

As we approach Lent, we are looking to spend time in study and preparation, and most especially in prayer, but also in doing and being. The themes of our Lent together will be **Listening well** and **Care for Creation**. More details will follow, but we expect a daytime and evening zoom session to run as well as an afternoon session for families.

Please give expressions of interest to Hilary, Chris or Sandra.

What's on this next week (Sunday 31st-Saturday 6th)

Sunday 30th January Benefice Zoom Eucharist - 5th Sunday service

Topic: Sunday Service 30th January Candlemas

Time: Jan 31, 2021 09:30 AM London

Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84380253227?pwd=STRZbXJnNmRXS3NOYVZmMUZkR2N4dz09>

Meeting ID: 843 8025 3227. Passcode: 071359

Every day

Morning Prayer at 8am

Do join us Chris, Hilary and Sandra if you can on Zoom To join Morning Prayer:

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 1st February

4pm Benefice Wardens' Meeting. This is a weekly meeting for these Covid times, to enable weekly 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 which they will bring at their discretion for reflection at the meeting. My special thanks to these people when they are able to give this time to support the decisions of the Benefice.

Tuesday 2nd February

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

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

Weekly **Families 'learning together' time around 4pm** Preparations for the following Sunday and preparations for Communion (confirmation for some) Please ask for the Zoom and time for the week if you or someone you know is interested.

This week only **Fundraising Zoom**

Topic: Fundraising Discussions Time: Feb 2, 2021 07:00 PM London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82309025612?pwd=WEE2RVBEM2VRNWp3TU50cHM1SHNpUT09>

Meeting ID: 823 0902 5612 Passcode: 577717

Wednesday 3rd February

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=emtPNkraUVIV1hVTjZ0TIBTWdVWUT09>

Meeting ID: 857 7959 5724. Passcode: 958554

Thursday 4th February

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 if you are interested.

Sunday 7th February

9.30 All Age Zoom Communion/Eucharist second Sunday before Lent.

Fundraising

Once more a huge THANK YOU and WELL DONE to those whose efforts have been making the church finances work as well as they have. Everton Parish has ended the year pretty well breaking even - a triumph; Gamlingay has required a concerted effort also, well done! However, this coming year promises to be at least as difficult as the last for our traditional fundraising efforts. We have always relied on events to make ends meet in our churches but our usual gatherings have not been possible. Church buildings have not been in use for weddings and baptisms, and less than usual for funerals, so we are missing the income generated by those as well. We are now planning for 2021. Alec is organising a Zoom meeting, open to anyone interested from any of the churches. We need both ideas and people to lead on making the ideas happen, so do join in. If you can't make the meeting, do please get in touch with any offers of help.

Scheduled Zoom meeting. Topic: Fundraising Discussions Time: Feb 2, 2021 07:00 PM
Meeting ID: 823 0902 5612 Passcode: 577717

Or join by clicking on

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82309025612?pwd=WEE2RVBEM2VRNWp3TU50cHM1SHNpUT09>

From Alec Hissett

Easy Fund Raising

Many thanks to everyone who has been using Easy Fundraising when purchasing goods and services online. This is a very simple way to raise much needed funds for our church. If you haven't yet signed up please visit;

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/panel/>

and select **St Mary the Virgin - Gamlingay** as your cause. As the name suggests this is very easy to use at no cost and full details of all the companies who subscribe can be found on the website.

WANTED !

Someone to coordinate the Benefice collection for **Christian Aid**.

This entails liaising with Christian Aid and coordinating the local team of volunteers.

This has, for many years, raised a significant contribution to this vital charity and does need coordinating!

Please consider this as part of your local ministry for the needs of the wider world.

If interested and/or for more information, contact:



*Dorothy Oglesby (retiring coordinator) - 01767 699165 -
dorothyoglesby@yahoo.co.uk*

Churches Open reviewed this week,

Everton: Sunday only, but with the key available for other visits.

Hatley: the church can be opened on request.

Gamlingay: the church is open after morning services on Sunday and Wednesday.

A message of optimism, received last week, from Mervyn Lack at East Hatley:

I went for a short walk yesterday (the first for some time) and, despite the fact that my field was as badly flooded as at any time that I have lived here and the virus numbers were at an all-time record level both for new victims and, sadly, deaths, perhaps there is light at the end of the tunnel.

I saw aconites, snowdrops and even primroses in flower; the daffodil leaves valiantly pushing through; the days are lengthening; I am beginning to hear of people receiving or planning their vaccinations and I returned home and watched the inauguration of the new President of America. So, there are things making us feel better and giving us hope for a brighter future.

Only my own personal view but one which will I hope will give encouragement to others to see a more normal life returning after all the recent trials and tribulations.

Mervyn



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

A reminder of some key contact details:

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Chris Miller , LLM/Reader, Gamlingay/Hatley Churchwarden	cfm55@btinternet.com	650779
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