

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



Weekly newsletter 12 February 2021



From Hilary:

This last Sunday before Lent we have the story of how a few of Jesus's disciples glimpse him as he appears in glory, shortly before his death. It happens also to be St Valentine's day when we celebrate all things romantic, rather tenuously connected with a Roman martyr of the 3rd century, probably a priest or bishop.

Valentine goodies

Thank you to Alec for circulating the offers and to the people who have offered Valentine-related goodies. The idea was late in formulation, but something similar and more extensive will be happening for Easter. *(See page 2 for further information)*

Churches Open - reviewed this week, remain as previous...

Everton Church will be open this Sunday, but will **not be open Sunday February 22nd** following work in the tower to make safe asbestos that has been discovered there.

Hatley the church can be opened on request.

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

Lent Study in the Benefice 2021 (Ash Wednesday 17th February)

When? Consecutive Tuesday evenings February 23rd-March 23rd inclusive 7.30-9.00pm

Plus a daytime session if there are people who would like one and can't make the Tuesday evening.

Where? In the comfort of your own home, on Zoom!

What? A series of sessions on Listening and Prayer.

This came out of a Bible study in which we wondered together how we could be sure about what God is saying to us and a recognition that we all pray, and know we need to, but many of us know we need to learn more and feel more confident in our prayer.

Week 1 - 23rd February

Prayer and Listening - Introduction

Week 2 - 2nd March

Prayer and Listening to God in Creation

Week 3 - 9th March

Prayer and Listening to God in Church

Week 4 - 16th March

Prayer and Listening to others

Week 5 - 23rd March

Prayer and Listening to myself

Please be in contact with Hilary or Chris if you would like to follow the course but can't make the Tuesday evening.

Lent Jars

As last year there will be Lent jars available, courtesy of our families, with daily activities on paper strips to do with caring for creation. Participants are invited to make up chains of the activities they have participated in and bring them to church, they will then be used to decorate the church at Easter. Please let Hilary know if you would like a jar. You might also like to use the jars as 'Jars of Grace' to make a collection through Lent. We will gather these at Easter and share them between the church they are given to and a charity of that congregation's choice - perhaps Christian Aid, given that so much of our charity fund-raising for that will be limited again this year?

Sunday 14th February Quinquagesima - Sunday next before Lent

9.30 Zoom Benefice Eucharist

Topic: Benefice Eucharist Sunday next before Lent Time: Feb 14, 2021 09:30am

Join Zoom Meeting - ID: 889 7786 9965 Passcode: 996938

What's on this next week (Sunday 14th-Saturday 20th)

Every day - Morning Prayer at 8am

Do join us Chris, Hilary and Sandra if you can, on Zoom.

Topic: Morning Prayer. Time: This is a recurring meeting open at 8am daily

Join Zoom Meeting - ID: 820 5991 7704. Passcode: 621586

Monday 15th 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 16th February

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

Time: This is a recurring meeting open 10am Tuesdays

Join Zoom 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.

Ash Wednesday 17th February

NO 9.30 Eucharist

7.30pm Ash Wednesday service on Zoom

Sunday 21st February Lent 1

9.30 Zoom Communion/Eucharist

Easter Catalogue

There are plans to produce an "Easter Catalogue" (as we did at Christmas) for home-made food and craft items which people are prepared to offer for sale.

All offers of food items will be welcomed but those with an Easter theme would be especially good, e.g. Hot cross buns, Simnel cake, Easter biscuits, anything with chocolate! Maybe some home-made sweets would sell well at Easter and could be made well in advance.

If you knit or sew how about making some Easter Bunny egg cosies or some bright and cheerful face masks? No doubt you will have other brilliant ideas of your own!

Please let Alec Hissett know, as soon as possible, what you would be willing to contribute so that the catalogue can be compiled and circulated in good time.

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St Marys Church Gamlingay Repairs Dec 2020 - Feb 2021

Parapets damaged during lead theft. These two were dislodged and left in a dangerous unstable condition – there's a hole right through the one on the left. They had to be carefully dismantled and completely rebuilt reusing all the original stone.



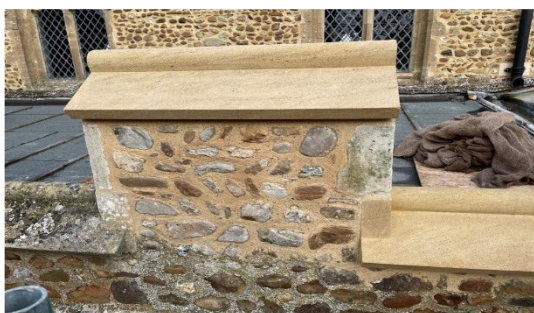
After the repairs (young trees removed from blocked down pipe too!)



Parapets destroyed during the lead theft. These two were knocked down during the theft and some stonework smashed. Fortunately, one coping stone fell back onto the roof and was salvaged.

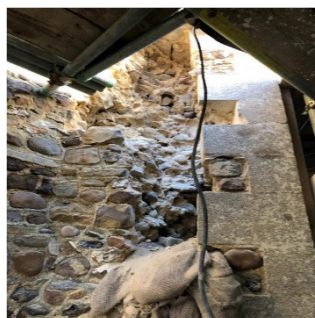
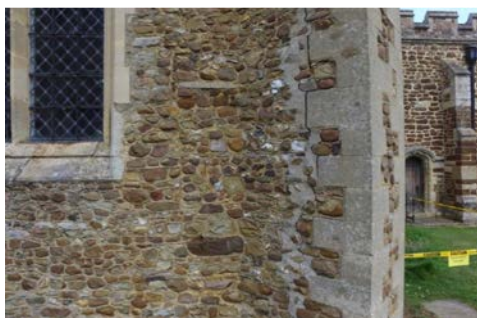


Stonemasons carved local matching stone to replace those which could not be conserved. The new lime mortar is to match the original (seen in the background of the outer nave wall) not the cement mortar of earlier repairs (seen below the current restoration works).

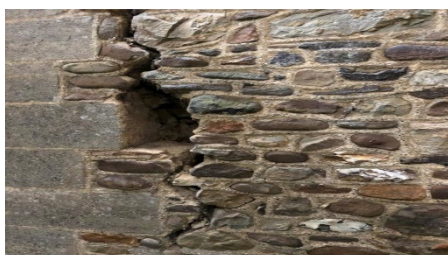


Buttresses at the south side of the church were unstable and urgent repair works needed. Rather than supporting the building it was the building keeping the buttresses standing - just.





The work required here was extensive and all the damp damaged, crumbling mortar had to be removed before reinforcing internal steels were added to tie the buttresses back to the body of the building. Earlier repairs using cement instead of lime mortar had not solved the problem.



The final repairs don't tell the story of how much work was done here. All the original stonework was salvaged and conserved. Great care was taken by our Architect and the Contractor to get lime mortar mix that matches the original lime mortar in both colour and texture.

Our Architect and Structural Engineer reviewed whether major under pinning of these two buttresses was necessary and it was decided to monitor these repairs over the coming years to see if much more intrusive repairs can be avoided. Several cracks inside the building have been re-mortared to enable us to monitor the building's movements.

Chris Smith February 2021

A reminder of some key contact details:

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