

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



Weekly newsletter 16 April 2021



From Hilary:

This last week has been a full and busy one for me, following Easter and leading up to the Sunday after Easter (slightly confusingly numbered Easter 2, being the second Sunday of Easter though the first Sunday after Easter). It was lovely to see people again in church on what is often referred to as 'low Sunday' - an occasion people when people don't always attend church, after the roller-coaster emotions of Holy Week services and the preparations that lead to the high feast of Easter Day.

I am acutely aware that I need to take some time off. Finding space for that is proving difficult, but to those of you who keep reminding me, you are right. I am not being obstinate and am working on the art of the possible, aware that it is not just me that is tired and in need of time off. Life circumstances don't always honour our plans, but God is good!

HRH The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh RIP

The Duke was remembered at all the services in our churches, as in most Anglican churches across the country, this last Sunday. Bells were rung at all our churches the preceding Saturday, 99 tolls at noon. Well done and thank you to the ringers! There are prayer leaflets in all the churches for private use, and our churches will be honouring the Duke before the funeral at St George's Chapel, Windsor on Saturday, with an hour's tolling of the bells.

At the Benefice service on Easter 2 there was a video compilation used, produced by Nick Ingles, using published material (by permission) and recordings of children from our parishes reading prayers and tributes to the Duke. Do be in touch if you would like to see this (again or for the first time) and we will supply a link.

Services for the next weeks

As the easing of lock-down progresses, it is once again a challenge for those of us with responsibilities for safety in our worship buildings to do what is possible and wise. Please be kind and patient as we work on the advice and instructions we are receiving, doing our best to offer the best public worship possible. Do also watch for any revisions we publish on the information. We do SO look forward to a time this all becomes a memory rather than a present challenge and we can meet without restrictions.

The headline information at the moment is that, subject to any changing advice, we expect to be keeping to Benefice Covid arrangements for ordinary Sunday services, as established in the Autumn. This is expected to run until the June date for wider opening of venues, assuming that can go ahead. This means until then for Sunday worship:

*Church services are Benefice services, subject to Covid risk assessments as previously produced.

*Morning Communion/Eucharist will be in Gamlingay,

*Evening service will be in Everton - format may vary but usually Evensong.

*There is no formal limit to congregations, rather the limit is set by what can be safe in the building in question.

No mixing should take place in church, 2m distance should be maintained between households.

Face coverings should be worn (unless exempt)

Households may sit together, others keep to 2m distance.

Only those designated as 'choir' or leading services may sing.

Books and repeat-use service sheets will not generally be available (quarantine needed for items used)

There is some easing of regulation on numbers in the pipeline for weddings and funerals, please contact Hilary or direct people to her with enquiries - numbers are still very restricted.

Baptisms can already take place, with due caution, within the regular worship of the church, subject to the restrictions above, and we have at least one planned for the Summer.

Individual services are still not allowed, and when permitted will be limited.

Confirmations

There was due to be a confirmation service in our Benefice, arranged to be with +Stephen in Everton in 2020, but that was prevented by the first lockdown. As things open up, we are being offered a confirmation service again, and this looks likely to be at the end of May with +Dagmar. Our prayers are with Pete, Jason and Wayne already declared for preparation. Please get in touch if this is something you or someone you know might be interested in.

News from our Young People

Congratulations to Holly, Saoirse and Aoife on taking their first step towards confirmation with their First Holy Communion on Easter Day. Well done girls, you looked beautiful and it was a wonderful service.

We hope you have all had a good Easter break. Well done to the children who made Easter Gardens and Easter Bonnets for our Easter competitions. We hope you enjoyed your Easter Eggs.

We are really excited to launch Outdoor Church which will be held in the Church Hall garden during May through to August 2021. We will be connecting with God through creation and have some great activities lined up for the children. We hope to be setting wild flowers in our wild section of the garden, growing vegetables in our raised beds, making a hedgehog house, bird houses, bee hotels etc.

If anyone can lend a hand to help tidy the garden before Outdoor Church starts in May, please contact us as soon as possible. We need help with grass cutting, weeding, tidying etc.

We would really appreciate your help and if anyone has **garden tools they would like to donate**, that would be amazing. **If anyone can help make things or donate items, Bird Houses, flower or vegetable seeds, we would be extremely grateful.**

Offers to Sandra Sarah or Hilary please (contacts at the end of the Newsletter).

Thank you in anticipation Sandra & Sarah (Sparks)

Open Garden Invitations

If you would like a visit to a beautiful garden please contact Anne Clarke who is offering hospitality, and possibly plants to purchase, donations in aid of St Mary's, Gamlingay.

Please contact Anne to book in on 651932.

Hilary is also offering hospitality in the Rectory Garden, again phone to book a time.

This week:

Sunday April 18th Easter 3

9.30 am Benefice Eucharist at Gamlingay (also on zoom)

6.00pm Evening service at Everton (APCM postponed , probable date now May 23rd)

Wednesday 21st

9.30 am Midweek Communion at Gamlingay - zoom and in person

Next week:

Sunday April 25th Easter 4

9.30 Benefice Communion from Gamlingay

6.00pm Evening service at Everton

Wednesday 28th

9.30 am Midweek Communion at Gamlingay - zoom and in person

PARISH GIVING SCHEME UPDATE

Information received by Eileen Thorpe, Church Treasurer:

As many of you will have heard, the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) has launched a simple and secure online service, offering an easy way for new donors to set up regular giving 'digitally'. This is a long-awaited and much-welcomed development. A facility for existing PGS donors to manage their donations online will be available from mid-April. With the addition of this online process, there are now three ways to donate to a church through the PGS. Donors can:

- set up a Direct Debit online
- donate by telephone
- fill in a gift form and post it to PGS

NEW EASY & SECURE GIVING

One of the really important ways that each of us lives our faith and participates in the mission of the Church, is through the act of giving. While there is joy in the spontaneity of a one-off gift when the Spirit moves us, it is regular giving that offers a prayerful expression of faith in action. Regular giving sustains our church and helps us to plan for the future. That is why we are members of the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS).

The team at PGS makes it safe and easy for you to give regularly, and just as safe and easy for your church to receive. Every pound you donate can be put to Christian service in your community, free from time-consuming admin for church staff and volunteers. There's also an option for you to increase your gift annually to keep pace with the rising cost of living, with the peace of mind that you can adjust your donation at any time if your circumstances change. If you are a UK taxpayer you can opt to add Gift Aid, increasing the value of your donation by 25%, which PGS will collect from HMRC on our behalf.

Now, with the addition of a simple and secure online process, there are three easy ways to donate to your parish through the PGS; you can set up your Direct Debit online, by telephone, or you can fill in a gift form and post it to PGS.

Donors who would like to make use of the new online service from PGS can simply visit parishgiving.org.uk, find your church using the easy search tool, and follow a few simple steps to set up your donation securely.

Or you scan the QR code on this page, which will take you straight to this parish's landing page on the PGS website, where you can click on the 'Give now' button. It couldn't be easier.

Alternatively, you can set up your regular gift by phoning the PGS team on 0333 002 1271, Monday to Friday, 9-5.



If you'd like to know more, please get in touch with your PGS Representative [eileen.thorpe@hotmail.co.uk]

Liquid soap dispensers

We are currently dispensing hand sanitiser from a 5-litre container into smaller units. However, some of these smaller units have gone missing so if anybody has any old liquid soap dispensers which they no longer need (they need to be of the "pump action" variety) then perhaps you would be good enough to rinse them out and leave them at the back of Gamlingay church. If Hatley and/or Everton could do with any I will arrange to have them delivered.



Chris Miller

A reminder of some key contact details:

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| Hilary Young , Parish Priest | hilaryafyoung@gmail.com | 650587 |
| Alec Hissett , Gamlingay/Hatley Churchwarden (outgoing) | alechissett@hotmail.com | 650052 |
| Chris Miller , LLM/Reader, Gamlingay/Hatley Churchwarden | cfm55@btinternet.com | 650779 |
| Nick Ingles , Gamlingay/Hatley Churchwarden elect | nickingles@me.com | 07828 934003 |
| Valerie Miller , ALM Pastoral | vjm55@btinternet.com | 650779 |
| Sandra Macrow , LLM Children and Families' minister | sandramacrow@btinternet.com | 07958 710703 |
| Dawn Martin , Gamlingay/Hatley PCC Secretary | dawnbeckymartin@aol.com | 652832 |
| Eileen Thorpe , Gamlingay/Hatley PCC Treasurer | Eileen.thorpe@hotmail.co.uk | 651197 |
| Jane Gurney , Everton Churchwarden | | |
| Jane Butcher , Everton Assistant Churchwarden | jane.butcher59@googlemail.com | 680105 |

Please let Brenda have any articles or pictures by Tuesday evening each week to Brenda.elcome@ymail.com