

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



Weekly newsletter 4 June 2021



From Hilary:

This coming Sunday is the first in June, the first after Trinity Sunday and the first in 'Ordinary (ordered) time and will be a special one in spite of the name - we expect some more such 'specials' during the Summer. This week we celebrate music and musicians at both Benefice services - 9.30am in Gamlingay and 4pm in Everton, on the Sunday designated by the RSCM as Music Sunday. Augustine famously said 'the one who sings prays twice' and we celebrate the way in which we have been able to keep some 'singing together while apart' going, thanks to the technology and the people who could make it work. Music reaches parts other communication cannot, even enjoyed by the profoundly deaf, and singing is good for us, body mind and spirit, so do join in if you can. The beauty of a Zoom participation is that you can sing as loudly as you like, receiving sound so you join with others but with microphone off, so the sound works for everyone. The service in Gamlingay in the morning is an All Age communion service both in person and broadcast on Zoom. Do share if you can, we have much to be thankful for. Everton's service is a sung Evensong, with designated choir - do be in touch to be one of the 6 permitted singers. That too will be available on Zoom, with apologies that the signal can be a bit in-and-out.

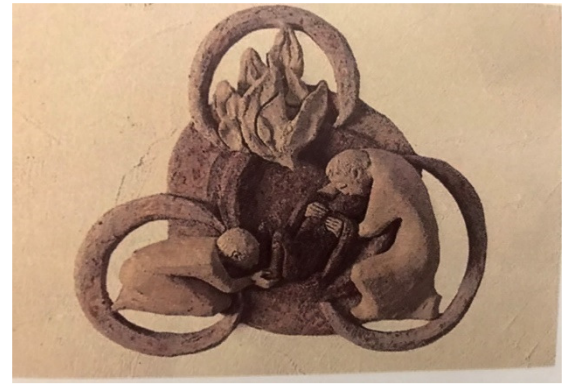
Last Sunday those who could be there enjoyed an uplifting Trinity Confirmation service with Rt Reverend Dr Dagmar Winter presiding. A Bank Holiday weekend Sunday afternoon perhaps wasn't the best time and day for a large turnout, but Everton hosted a morning communion which made it possible for some who couldn't be at an



afternoon service to celebrate this last big festival of the Easter season. In the afternoon Gamlingay Church and Church Hall gardens accommodated families and supporters of the four candidates for a lovely occasion where we were able to celebrate together in more normal-feeling ways, while still taking care of one another.



Bishop Dagmar shared with us the picture reproduced here, of the Trinity. It is an image of a ceramic model in which the central figure can be seen as a human soul - which could be any of us - being ministered to and surrounded by the Trinity God. The soul is attended by the three persons of the Unity, represented here as serving humanity in perfection of love. The Spirit is a flame/dove, descending onto the central figure, so could seem a little distanced by contrast with the other persons of the Deity, who attend in intimate contact, serving and supporting the central figure. The important element is the love that is expressed among the figures. The central one, the main recipient, also giving by accepting in weakness. We were asked where we see ourselves - maybe giving, maybe receiving, but all in love.



Jason, Lauren, Peter and Wayne had enjoyed 6 weeks of preparation and bible study classes to prepare for Sunday's confirmation in St Mary's, Gamlingay, and the weather was absolutely beautiful!!

Thanks to Sandra and the Sparks group families along with other wonderful helpers (Ros, Alec and Alan to name a few) the garden was looking fantastic to host a small tea party for the Bishop after the service. Everyone enjoyed sandwiches, tea and cake and even a glass of bubbly!! It was lovely to get together on this very special occasion and welcome Jason, Lauren, Peter and Wayne to St Mary's church family.

Holidays and Leave

Much love and prayers of celebration and thanksgiving with those fortunate enough to have somewhere to go and time to go there this Summer. If this is you and you know when you are going to be away, do let me know (email is good) to help us plan the services and any cover for Sundays. Norman and I are likely to be holidaying at home again this year, with occasional visits away to friends and family, while Norman's knee surgery and convalescence takes place. Subject to preliminaries earlier this week Saturday is the planned day for the operation, thank you for love, encouragement and prayers.



Churches Opening times

Everton church Friday-Sunday, 9am-around 5pm, or after last service on Sunday if later.

Hatley church can be opened on request.

Gamlingay church daily 10am-5pm

Everton Christian Aid Collection 2021

Despite not doing a house-to-house collection in Everton this year, we are pleased to say the cash collection amounted to £231.25. Thanks to Dick Edwards for the banking. This is in addition to any donations paid by phone, post or online direct to Christian Aid.

Thanks to all
Linda and Dorothy

Reminder of the upcoming plans for services

We continue to hope for more freedom after **June 21st**, while waiting for confirmation in the next couple of weeks and, all being well, looking forward to more opening up in July. Please look at and comment on the proposals set out below for the rest of the Summer. Written responses are very helpful and constructive alternatives if you are looking for a change.

In the next two weeks the current service pattern continues in churches and on Zoom on a whole-Benefice basis with no service in Hatley

9.30am Communion/Eucharist at Gamlingay

4.00pm Evening Service at Everton with optional communion afterwards.

From June 27th while further local consultation takes place on future worship patterns in 'normal' times, and if government guidelines permit, the following is suggested as an interim pattern pending new plans to be implemented in the Autumn. These will of course again have to depend on national guidelines and Covid safety.

First Sunday (July 4th, August 1st and possibly Sept 5th)

8am Holy Communion BCP Hatley

9.30 am Family-Friendly [Eucharistic] service, Gamlingay

4.00pm Evensong at Everton with optional Holy Communion

2nd and 4th Sundays (July 11th and 25th, August 8th and 22nd)

9.30 Eucharist at Gamlingay

11.15 Holy Communion at Everton

[possible Evening service in Hatley or Gamlingay as announced]

3rd Sunday (June 27th, July 18th)

9.30 Eucharist at Gamlingay

4.00pm Evening service in Everton

This week

Sunday 6th June Trinity 1

9.30 Benefice Eucharist/Communion

4.00pm Benefice Evening service with optional communion afterwards

Gamlingay Community Turbine Tithe Fund

I am pleased to report that our funding application towards the costs of installing PV Panels on the south aisle roof has been approved and we have been advised to make a further application for the September round of funding. A further application is being prepared for the South Cambridgeshire District Council Zero Carbon Communities Grant scheme.

We are planning to have the PV panels installed at the same time as the lead roofing is replaced, later this year. Approval will be required for the installation but we are confident that this will be given as it will help achieve the Church of England's stated commitment to be carbon neutral by 2030.

Alec Hissett

Do you have any photos of past church activities?

Along with the tea and cakes at Gamlingay's proposed Church Fete on 17th July, we are hoping to mount a display of photos going back as far as possible. We have many taken at events since 2003 - garden parties, BBQs, fetes, festivals, pet services, outings, walks, etc. I'm sure some of you will have photos as well and, hopefully, going back even further than 2003. If you would be willing to dig them out and let me have them, fairly soon, it would be great to add them to the display. Please put your name on the back of each photo you lend so that we can be sure of returning it to you afterwards.

Looking through our own snaps I was struck by how lovely it was to keep seeing pictures, not only of ourselves when younger (and fitter!) but also of friends no longer with us. We feel sure that many of you will find the display nostalgic and, for others, it might be interesting to see what we have all been getting up to over the years!

Brenda Elcome



Merrymaking in May!



Well, our month of Merrymaking is over and what a month it has been! Instead of warm sunshine enabling us to bask in each other's gardens we have had freezing temperatures, rain, hail, sleet, thunder and almost constant wind. Did it deter us? Of course not! As we pointed out last week, we are British and it takes more than a bit of bad weather to change our plans.

A couple of the earlier events were blessed with sunshine but a few others had to be postponed. At some, hardy guests wrapped up well and did their best to be merry and bright in chilly gardens. Fortunately, after the middle of the month, it was acceptable to be indoors which proved to be a huge advantage on those occasions when the rain was coming down in stair-rops and the wind seemed to be coming straight from the Arctic..

But then, just in time for our last three events on Thursday, Friday and Saturday of last week, summer finally decided to put in an appearance and our last lucky few guests were able to enjoy being outside once again.



We have heard reports of such wonderful hospitality - sumptuous spreads, the airing of the best china and even a silver teapot! It has been so refreshing to be able to gather together again, albeit in small and distanced groups, and there has been a lot of fun and laughter.

So, **THANK YOU** to everyone who took part - hosts, guests and others who, though unable to join us, gave generous donations. The final profit from the month's activities is **£728.50** which we hope you will agree is a magnificent sum.