

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



Weekly newsletter 11 June 2021



From Hilary:

There has not been much time to produce anything for this week as husband Norman's long-awaited knee operation was this last Saturday and he came home on Wednesday. The operation went well, and he was able to join us (on Zoom) for morning service on Sunday for which thanks be to God. Norman sends his thanks, to which I add mine, to everyone who has prayed, sent good wishes and love. As we always knew, the hard work starts here, so continuing prayers will be much appreciated.

Thank you so much to the production team for your help and support when I've not been able to keep to deadlines. We welcome our newly sworn-in Wardens and pray blessings on them in their work.

I haven't had anything back on the proposed pattern from June 27th.

If you don't respond, don't complain if it doesn't suit!

Repeat Reminder of the upcoming plans for services

June 21st continues to be a date we look towards.

Please look at and comment on the proposals set out below for the rest of the Summer. Meanwhile we continue with the pattern 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.

Midweek communion at 9.30am at Gamlingay

Proposed Pattern from June 27th - to be confirmed after PCC meetings

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

9.30am 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)

9.30am Eucharist at Gamlingay

11.15am Holy Communion at Everton

[possible Evening service in Hatley or Gamlingay as announced]

3rd Sunday (July 18th, 15th August)
9.30am Eucharist at Gamlingay
4.00pm Evening service in Everton

This week's Services

Sunday 13th June Trinity 2

9.30am Benefice Eucharist/Communion
4.00pm Benefice Evening service with optional communion afterwards

Wednesday 9.30am Midweek Communion at Gamlingay



SINGING IN LOCKDOWN



During this pandemic, virtual choirs have become a 'common thing'. Singers have not been able to perform together in the same place, so they have been recording themselves separately and their parts mixed to produce a mass effect. Things have not been any different here at St Mary's, Gamlingay. For the past 14 months we have been trying to keep that sense of community, that sense of bonding, by mixing our singing tracks together through the miracles of technology. But recording can be quite different to singing in a live group. When singing live, so much information can be communicated through a single breath. When the organ finishes the intro, leading the congregation into the first verse, or similarly when conductors raise their hands and everyone takes that first breath together and you are completely unified, it is not just that you are breathing at the same time, you are breathing with the same intention and with the same mindset. There is nothing that locks a group of people together faster than taking that breath together and then singing. Once that has been taken away, once we are all isolated, that first breath becomes impossible. Many of us long for that same first breath together, coupled with the freedom of expressing our faith through music by singing.

Long before Covid-19, in fact 10 years earlier, American composer Eric Whitacre created his first virtual ensemble of singers from around the world. It became an instant YouTube sensation watched by over 6.5m people. He followed it with others, each with more singers from more countries. Last summer his 'Virtual Choir 6' was released, with a new piece specially composed for lockdown, it was called 'Sing gently' with a staggering 17,572 singers from 129 different countries. I like the way the composer compares this pandemic situation with Kintsugi – a Japanese art form - where the artist takes a broken pot and glues all the parts together but, in with the glue is an epoxy mixed with powdered gold; "so that you can see the scars in the healing, so you are not only making it stronger than it was before, but you are making it more beautiful. That is the perfect metaphor for the way I see all of this, it will break society apart but then in coming back together we embrace the breaking, we do not hide the scars, we illuminate them, and we are stronger and more beautiful when we come out the other side."

So far, here at St Mary's, we have recorded more than 140 hymns/songs and are still going. Last week for the first time we had Spark's children joining in, all together mixing a beautiful version of "He's got the whole world in His hands". This contributed to our special family service, namely 'Music Sunday', celebrating the role of music and musicians in church life. So, if you have not tried yet, it is not too late, and like Hilary said on Sunday, anyone can sing, even if you think you can't!

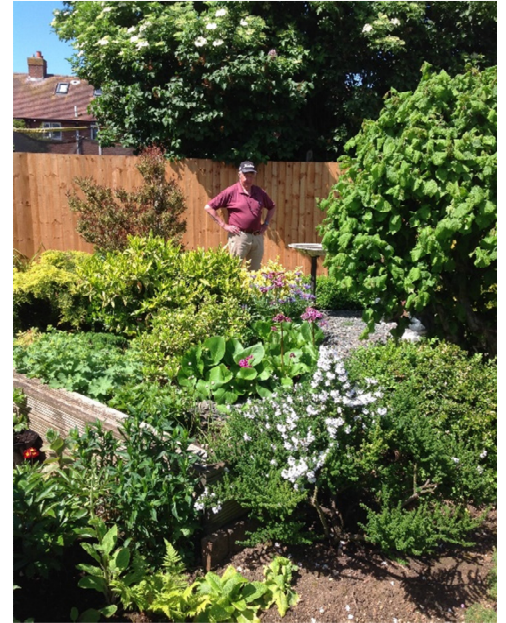
Nick Ingles

OPEN



GARDEN

Anne Clarke is still happy to welcome visitors to her beautiful garden in exchange for a donation to St. Mary's Church, Gamlingay. Just give her a call on 651932 to arrange a convenient time. If you are lucky there may be some plants for sale as well.



Admission of Churchwardens

On Wednesday your two churchwardens elect, nominated at the 2021 Gamlingay and Hatley APCM, attended a Zoom session known as a "swearing in event". This particular session was chaired by the Archdeacon of Cambridge the Ven Dr Alex Hughes. We have two archdeacons in our diocese, the other being the archdeacon for our area of Huntingdon and Wisbech, the Ven Hugh McCurdy. It was simply the luck of the draw as to which archdeacon chaired our session. Even though churchwardens are officers of the bishop, these events tend to be run by the archdeacons. There were twenty of us present, with a few becoming churchwardens for the first time.

Archdeacon Alex began by asking us to thank our congregations for their generosity in these difficult times, and he commended the Parish Giving Scheme.

There will be some information on Deanery Development Planning which we should look out for in the autumn.

He then said that as we return to normality some will be raring to go and others will be "dog tired". Apparently, Churchill once said "Never waste a good crisis". So the question now is, do we start again those things which we have stopped and if we do, do we do things in the same way?

After these introductory comments we moved to the swearing in event itself where we were required to say together:

I solemnly and sincerely declare before God and his people that I will faithfully and diligently discharge the duties of the office of churchwarden for the parish for which I have been chosen during the period of my appointment.

It is not until we have said these words that we officially take up our office as churchwarden.

At this point it would be remiss of us not to thank Alec Hissett who has retired from the office of churchwarden. He has been a loyal and faithful churchwarden for many years and we are truly grateful for all that he has brought the church at Gamlingay and Hatley.

We hope and pray that we can rely on your payers and support through the coming year.

Best wishes and thank you.

Nick Ingles and Chris Miller.

Churchwardens.

Gamlingay and Hatley.

WANTED!

FOR ST. MARY'S, GAMLINGAY FETE ON 17th JULY

ITEMS TO FILL A FOOD HAMPER AS THE FIRST PRIZE IN OUR SUMMER RAFFLE.

BOTTLES AND JARS FOR THE TOMBOLA

ALL CONTRIBUTIONS WILL BE GRATEFULLY RECEIVED BY ALEC AND ROS HISSETT

THANK YOU!



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

A message from Dawn Martin :

I am collecting in the Children's Society boxes so, if you have a box at home, could you please either bring it to church and hand directly to me or give me a call to arrange collection – mobile : 07800 743994
If anyone who doesn't usually collect would like a box for the coming year, just let me know.

Many thanks
Dawn

A reminder of some key contact details:

Hilary Young , Parish Priest	hilaryafyoung@gmail.com	650587
Chris Miller , LLM/Reader, Gamlingay/Hatley Churchwarden	cfm55@btinternet.com	650779
Nick Ingles , Gamlingay/Hatley Churchwarden	nickingles@me.com	07828 934003
Valerie Miller , 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		
Alec Hissett	alchissett@hotmail.com	650052

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