

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



Weekly newsletter 5 November 2021



From Hilary

We have celebrated All Saints and marked All Souls this last week (in both cases a day early). The Benefice service in the morning at Everton welcomed several congregation members from Gamlingay and the choir was a great blessing.



The All Saints Light Party and Service of Light that afternoon was another excellent occasion. The 'holy pumpkin lanterns' adorned the church porch for several days before being taken to compost - apart from the Rectory one which was taken early to dismember for soup!



And now we are in the Kingdom season (red colours in church). This time offers the opportunity to reflect on what it means to be a citizen of the Kingdom of Heaven as we count down to Advent.

There will be some serious discussions on how we manage worship in our Benefice as the church in Gamlingay will be out of use for a number of weeks, possibly including Christmas itself.

Gamlingay Church Building

The Good News is that the long-awaited project was launched this week, as news was released of the large National Churches Trust grant which means the work can now commence. This will enable replacement of the stolen lead from the roof, plus completion of other urgent repairs identified in the quinquennial inspection, particularly to the remaining lead roof and several of the windows.

The challenge which that news brings (some might call it 'the bad news') is that the work is on a rather larger scale than had been anticipated and must be completed in what has now become a rather tight timescale due to the grant schedule. To qualify for the grant, work could not be started before the grant was awarded and now must be completed by the end of March 2022. To be confident of achieving this, work is scheduled to start on November 15th to run for (it is hoped only) 20 weeks, during which time the church building will be unusable when work is taking place.

At weekends the chancel may well be available, but not the organ which will be wrapped for protection. Once protection for that and other woodwork in church is in place, the taking down and setting up of all of that would be required if the church were to be reinstated for use (not to mention the cleaning work involved) would cost too much time and money to be feasible on a weekly basis. This means a lot of re-planning. Fortunately, we can just manage to fit in the civic service for Remembrance the day before work starts but there is no question that, after that, usual patterns will be disrupted.

However, it is the price we must pay for the finances to enable us to be good stewards of the church building which previous generations have bequeathed to us. May we continue to be "The Body of Christ" - the living church, built of people - while our physical building is being repaired.

NB : This is 'new news' as I write and the PCCs and Wardens will have a lot to decide in the next couple of weeks. Please understand that things have had to move fast, and those involved are working flat out to get everything done in order of urgency. There will be more news as it becomes available - watch this space!

Remembrance Sunday 14th November

The church gatherings in both parishes will go ahead as previously planned, but at Gamlingay numbers may be restricted. Those planning to attend should let Hilary or one of the Wardens know.

In both churches everyone is asked to wear a face covering inside the buildings, unless exempt from doing so.



There are still some of the candles available. Let Hilary know if you would like one, they will be available in church on Sunday.

A reminder - they have cost £2.50 each and are offered for £3 or more donation to church funds of the church of your choice.

This Week

Sunday 7th November 3rd before Advent

8.00am BCP Holy Communion at Hatley St George
9.30am All Age Eucharist at Gamlingay
4.00pm Evensong and Memorial time + optional HC at Everton

Wednesday 10th November

9.30am Midweek communion at Gamlingay and on Zoom
Meeting ID: 857 7959 5724. Passcode: 958554

NB this will be the last one for some time, as works on the church building will prevent its use at this time of day, probably until well after Christmas.

Next Week

Sunday 14th November 2nd before Advent + Remembrance Sunday

Gamlingay

8.00am Said parish communion
10.45am Gather at the War Memorial for the Act of Remembrance, followed by Civic church service at St Mary's.

Everton

10.30am Gather at church, proceeding to the War Memorial for 11.00.

Tuesday Bible Study continues on Zoom.

A reminder of Churches Opening times

Everton church open Friday – Sunday & Bank Holiday Mondays 10am-4pm.

Hatley church can be opened on request.

Gamlingay church daily 10am-4pm until November 15th, then closed to the public.



OPEN TO ALL....



GUILD OF ST MARY
Christmas Wreath demonstration

Sarah Titmus has kindly agreed to demonstrate making a Christmas Wreath decoration, with the option to make your own alongside her.

This is an extra Guild meeting which will take place on Monday 6th December at 2pm in the Church Hall. It is an 'open meeting' so all are welcome, however spaces are limited especially for those who want to make a wreath.

If you only want to watch the demonstration (and myself attempting to make one!) that is absolutely fine; the entrance fee is £2 to cover refreshments.

If you would like to join me in making a wreath the total price is £22. (£20 to cover all materials, plus £2 entrance) – money payable on the day.

Please **RSVP** by **MONDAY 22nd NOVEMBER** if you are interested in this event, especially if you want to make a wreath. However, it would also be good to know how many people are interested in just the demonstration.

Liz Huckle (Guild Secretary)

email : liz@liz-huckle.co.uk Tel : 650988

Christmas Cards

Valerie has packs of Traidcraft Christmas Cards for sale.

Please let her know if you would like to see a selection.

Any profits will go to Church funds.



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, Treasurer	nickingles@me.com	07868 144830
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
Jane Gurney , Everton Churchwarden		
Alec Hissett	alechissett@hotmail.com	650052

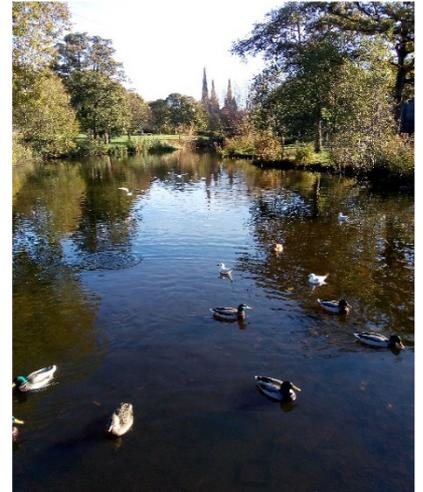
THANK YOU!

To all our friends in Gamlingay - a huge thank you for all your kind messages, cards, gifts and special bell ringing! It was so lovely of you and means so much.

We've settled in really well and unpacked nearly all the boxes and already been on baby-sitting duty but we can now come home in five minutes! Here are a few photos from our walk this morning including a visit to the cathedral which is FREE to visit!!

With love and blessings to you all

Jan and Rod



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