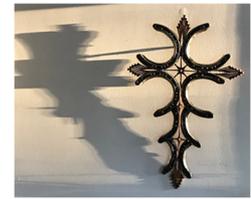


ST MARY'S GAMLINGAY, HATLEY ST GEORGE & ST MARY'S EVERTON



Weekly newsletter 17 December 2021



From Hilary

So, our last Sunday in Advent approaches and we will be ushering in Christmas with our Church Carol services on Sunday afternoon and Monday evening. Despite the rising concerns about the Omicron variant of the Corona virus we continue to plan for gatherings but are regularly updating what we will do to keep one another safe. I beg your tolerance with those of us who are finding it both challenging and wearing to be constantly having to make decisions that affect everyone and with which at least someone (if not many someones) will be unhappy. I don't think any of us is happy with the situation but it is what we have been given, so we continue to make the best of things and look for the positives even in the midst of serious disappointments. Do keep watching for developments in the next weeks. We continue to pray for one another's safety and to take reasonable precautions for the sake of the health service and for our vulnerable people.

Huge apologies if anyone tried to join the midweek communion this week. Having made it available week after week when no one used the link, I forgot this week to open it. Do let me know if you want to use it by ringing the landline or sending a text to my mobile phone (07980 468479).

Schools

Gamlingay primary school enjoyed two Christingle services last Thursday (in line with their RE studies on religious celebrations of light). We remembered Jesus as the Light of the World whose birth we celebrate at Christmas. It was lovely to be in school again after so long - prayers that the safety measures were enough!

Everton Primary School will have had to adjust their celebration of Christmas at church, with no parents for the play, only one performance, and all the necessary care being taken. Their visit was still planned to go ahead on Thursday this week. THANK YOU to those who have made this possible for them, including the cleaning afterwards.

Carol Services - update on plans

At the time of writing the services are planned to go ahead with the following risk mediations:

- * Use of hand sanitizer on entering and leaving church, and between handling any shared objects.
- * Adults in the congregation (other than those medically exempt) to wear face coverings in church at all times, especially while singing.
- * Those leading services (who will not be wearing face coverings when 'in action') will be taking a lateral flow test on the day of the service and obviously will not attend if the result is positive.
- * Ensuring good ventilation- doors and windows to be kept as open as weather conditions permit.
- * Spaced seating provided for those who need it (the back of church is kept for people in this situation).

* We ask that people do not attend if they have any symptoms, even if these are not testing as Covid. ALSO, if you are vulnerable, think carefully about going to a public place where people gather. We have to trust one another on this, to own the risks we take for ourselves, and not to put others unnecessarily at risk.

A further reminder that we are asking people NOT to go to the carol service at Hatley if they would not normally have done so. For those who will be there, refreshments will be available after the service at the Village Hall, served suitably distanced. We are advised not to serve any refreshments in churches for the time being because of the need to remove face coverings while eating. **Apologies again - the time of the Hatley service is 7.00pm** confusion is all my fault.

Advent 3 look-back

The Angel of the week was the one who announces the forthcoming birth of John the Baptist who was the theme, along with Joy, of our prayers and focus this third Sunday in Advent. That Angel announces himself as Gabriel, and Zechariah is struck dumb until John is born, as he asks for a sign. The children were all otherwise occupied, so we don't have angels to show this time but, as it is the same Angel next week, we look forward to some Angel Gabriel representations to add to the existing one.

Advent Angels - Advent 4

The Angel this next week is again Gabriel, this time announcing to Mary the forthcoming birth of Jesus. By this time her cousin Elizabeth is already six months pregnant with John, and she is told this as part of the reassurance to her concerning what is happening. Mary goes to visit Elizabeth and the two women rejoice together. Mary's song, the Magnificat, is used most Sundays at Evensong. The 'starter' material for this session is available from Hilary, Chris or Valerie

Tuesday 21st Dec 8.00pm on Zoom only, led by Chris Miller

Wednesday 22nd Dec 10.30am at the Rectory face to face and on Zoom led by Chris and Hilary this time.

Those attending in person are invited to take a lateral flow test on the day - as Hilary and Chris will have done.



ST MARY'S GAMLINGAY, CHRISTMAS FAIR



On Saturday, 11th December, everything came together for the Christmas Fair at the Eco Hub.

It started with Dawn and Chris setting up on the edge of the football pitches, serving hot food and drinks, where they heroically stayed all day! During the morning the tables went up in the Hub ready for the arrival of the many stallholders.

Santa's Grotto looked brilliant with the children's crafts beside it!

During the afternoon a steady stream of visitors browsed the stalls and enjoyed refreshments including cakes, biscuits, sausage rolls, tea, coffee and mulled wine. They were entertained by the music group playing as well as general background music - all rounded off with a superb performance by the Alice Lucas School of Dance!

Thanks go to everyone who helped to make the day such a success! The event raised approximately £1,250. *Jane Orchiston.*

Hilary writes: Another HUGE 'thank you' to the team who rallied round and enabled a most successful event, both in terms of the money raised and the organisation and community connections. It was lovely to welcome the dancers with Miss Alice, an opportunity for them and their parents that was much appreciated.

WELL DONE to everyone with a special mention to Jane Orchiston who did such a brilliant job as Event Coordinator.

This Week and beyond...

Sunday 19th December Advent 4

9.30am Eucharist at Hatley St George church (Kingspan room is now booked so not an option after all)
4.00pm Benefice Christmas Carol service at Everton St Mary

Monday 20th December

7.00pm Christmas Carol Service at Hatley St. George (**not** 6.30 as on the Christmas Card)

Wednesday 22nd December

9.30am Midweek Communion at the Rectory in Gamlingay and on Zoom
Meeting ID: 857 7959 5724. Passcode: 958554

Friday 24th December – Christmas Eve

4.00pm Christingle at Everton Church
4.30pm Christingle at Gamlingay Eco Hub following nativity walk starting 4pm in Church Street
11.30pm First Communion of Christmas (Midnight Mass) at Everton Church

Christmas Day

10.00am Family Communion at Hatley
10.00am Carols and Readings at Everton

Sunday 26th December

10.00am Family Communion for St. Stephen's Day at Everton Church.

Sunday 2nd January

TBC Possible services 9.30am in Gamlingay and 11.15am in Everton

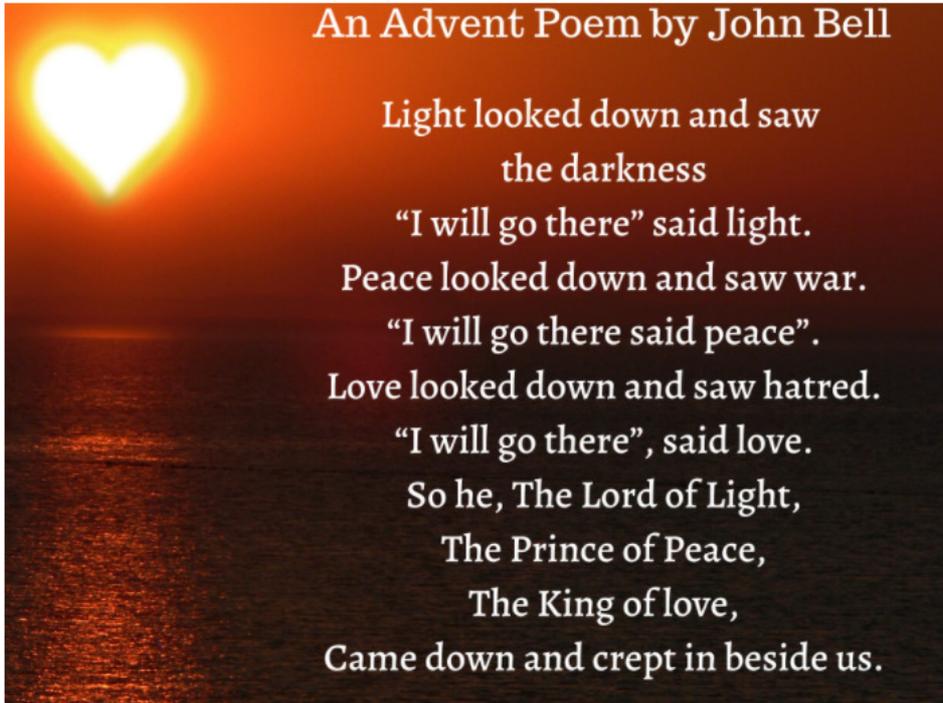
Parish of Gamlingay with the Hatleys Grand Christmas Draw

A huge thank you to everyone who provided the prizes (see photograph) and bought tickets. The draw took place on Sunday morning in the Eco Hub. Total proceeds, after expenses, were £1,242 - a wonderful result.

Alec Hissett



An Advent Poem by John Bell



Light looked down and saw
the darkness

“I will go there” said light.

Peace looked down and saw war.

“I will go there said peace”.

Love looked down and saw hatred.

“I will go there”, said love.

So he, The Lord of Light,

The Prince of Peace,

The King of love,

Came down and crept in beside us.

A reminder of church opening times and some key contact details:

Everton church open Friday- Sunday, and on Bank Holiday Mondays 10am-4pm.

Hatley church can be opened on request.

Gamlingay church closed to the public until March.

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		07967 445223
Alec Hissett	alechissett@hotmail.com	650052

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