

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



Weekly newsletter 21 January 2022



From Hilary...

After a few days 'off' there is always catching up to be done.

The questionnaires have been coming in over the last few days and will be a priority over this weekend so that the next Newsletter can carry decisions on the services in February.

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity began on Tuesday 18th and ends on Tuesday 25th, the feast of the conversion of St Paul. This Sunday, the 3rd of Epiphany, will reflect the season with an evening reflection time on Zoom when there will be some input from Gamlingay Baptist Church (our sister church in Gamlingay). Our prayers are, therefore, especially focused this week on being the people of God we are called to be - living and bringing to others 'Life in its Fullness'.

This type of unity involves being counter-cultural, both concerning the western culture of our time with its focus on individuality and freedom and, also, the culture of some manifestations of the Church in history, where competition and adversarial behaviours have been prevalent. Unity does not mean we have to think and act alike in all things (God forbid!), nor that we must always agree with one another about everything (I'm pretty sure that the Almighty doesn't have a preferred football team for Christians for instance!) It does, however, mean a unity in diversity that involves a real, God-given love for others whether we agree or not and whether they are like us or not. Especially it involves being visibly 'together' with those who share our faith in Jesus Christ as third person of the one true God, known to us by the power of the Spirit. This togetherness does not require us to share tastes in music or formality/informality in worship, nor any other world-based distinction. But it does require us to work together for the common good and never to do to one another anything unkind or against the law of love. We share one Lord and one faith, and this is what we may fail to show to the world by our actions and our omissions to act. We continue to pray to be the visible and generous people of God that we are both called and enabled to be, if we are prepared to let it be so.

Our PCCs meet this coming week. Do support those who have been willing to be part of this aspect of the ministry of our churches, by your prayers and by your encouragement and engagement with the decisions they are called to make.

On the agenda will be the care of our buildings and the various ways in which we can be more fully Church in the parishes of this Benefice and in the wider context of Deanery, Diocese and Province. Importantly, worship and finding people to help make things happen, as well as what these things should be, will be discussed.

Safeguarding - meeting our obligations to keep everyone safe is always an agenda item and there will be more here on what that means as new policies are being implemented.

We shall be looking ahead towards Lent and Easter, hoping for a more open time this third Spring since Covid 19 became an issue.

Hilary.

Services for the rest of January

Sunday 23rd January Epiphany 3 (Sunday in the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity)

10.00am Shared Eucharist at Everton

6.30pm Service for Christian Unity on Zoom only (same link as for the morning)

Wednesday 26th January

Communion 9.30am at the Rectory (to be confirmed)

Sunday 30th January Epiphany 4, Celebrating the Presentation of Christ in the Temple

10 am Shared Eucharist for Candlemas at Everton

TBC evening Zoom presentation

Two messages from Alec Hissett.....

St. Mary's Church, Gamlingay Building Repairs

Following the site meeting last week, I'm pleased to report that the work on the nave roof is progressing well with the new covering on the south side complete and work underway on the north side. Several windows have been removed and sent away for re-leading and repairs to the surrounding stonework should start very soon.

Fund Raising

Thank you to everyone who has been raising funds using Easyfundraising, your donations have been much appreciated.

For those not yet signed up please help us get 2022 off to a great start for St Mary's by signing up to support us for FREE on #easyfundraising. You can raise donations whenever you shop online with over 6,000 retailers including John Lewis & Partners, eBay, Argos, ASOS, M&S and more. Plus, we will get a bonus £5 donation when you do!

Sign up today - this will make a BIG difference to us this year:

[https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/support-a-good-cause/step-](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/support-a-good-cause/step-1/?invite=3JW7S6&char=44844&referral-campaign=c2s&utm_source=refsharebox)

[1/?invite=3JW7S6&char=44844&referral-campaign=c2s&utm_source=refsharebox](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/support-a-good-cause/step-1/?invite=3JW7S6&char=44844&referral-campaign=c2s&utm_source=refsharebox)

Please let Brenda have any articles or pictures for the newsletter

by Tuesday evening each week to Brenda.elcome@ymail.com

GUILD OF ST MARY

January Christmas Party!

On Monday of this week the Guild of St. Mary held its postponed Christmas Party and a jolly time was had by all! Fifteen members enjoyed a delicious spread of party food served with mulled wine or posh lemonade at tables decorated with Christmas cloths, napkins, crackers, holly and candles. We exchanged our Secret Santa presents and then played, in true Christmas fashion, a couple of silly games and agreed that it didn't matter at all that it was January and not December!

The assembled company (two missing from the picture) looking rather replete having consumed most of the food and drink and relaxing briefly while waiting for the silly games to begin.



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.

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