

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



Weekly newsletter 28 January 2022



From Hilary...

Thank you to everyone who returned a questionnaire by whatever means. Responses have been taken into account when preparing the service pattern for the next month. The first Sunday service is available below, the rest will follow next week.

The most recent report from Gamlingay on the roof and other repair work suggests that it will be a tight call as to whether the building will be in use for Easter itself, as the projected finish date is the Monday of Easter week. Prayers are with the contractor's team for health for themselves and their families.

This Sunday sees the end of the Christmas+Epiphany season as we celebrate **Candlemas** (The Feast of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple). The actual day is the following Wednesday (2nd February) but the feast can be celebrated on the nearest Sunday. We shall have a special service in Everton for the Benefice, which will also be on Zoom. Traditionally the candles for the year were blessed on this day. We shall not be doing that, although the symbolism of light is a major part of the liturgy which moves us into ordinary time leading into Lent which begins on 2nd March – more on that next time.



Zoom Apology

We are aware that the unreliable signal is sometimes giving a poor experience for those of you joining services on Zoom - I am so sorry. We keep thinking about what can be done, but it seems there is nothing much at the moment as the situation is so unpredictable. The obvious, but expensive and long-term, solution is a line into church. However, that's nothing like as simple as putting a line into a house as the church needs an official postcode (which in itself takes time to set up with the Council) before all the arrangements can be made, including taking a line across a churchyard. We were fortunate at Gamlingay that the church hall nearby could be used for the postal address and that an overhead cable was possible, but these took many weeks to establish. If the phone signal were good enough there is a means to amplify and convert the signal to give WiFi in a building. Let me know if you think that is worth exploring and if you would be willing to help with the cost and feasibility enquiry.

Our PCC's

My heartfelt thanks go to those who have been prepared to put in the time and take responsibility for enabling the administrative side of being Church in our parishes. Their work with me in making, recording and enacting collective decisions about the way our churches operate within the regulations of this Church of England we have inherited to work and pray within, and for the communities locally, is so important in enabling us to be the Church we are called to be.

Annual meetings

We have agreed Annual Parochial Church Meetings (APCMs) for each of the two parishes of our Benefice to be held on Sunday 27th February. We get the opportunity to look at the way our churches have worked financially and in other ways. We will also appoint the Church Wardens and PCCs for the coming year. Please start praying with me now for the new PCCs, those continuing and those blessing us by serving in this way again after a break, or for the first time.

The people who help in this way are a great blessing, could this be you? The main requirement is the willingness to serve and to be prepared to work with me as parish priest and others with whom you may not always agree, but with whom you share the love of God. Several of those who have served over the last year, some for many years, are looking to put down responsibilities this next time. The pandemic has put pressure on all of us and I continue to remind myself, as I remind readers, that God does not want from us what we cannot do, nor for those 'cannot's' to stop us being and doing what we can. May God bless us all in this preparation time.

Living Ely 2025

Over the next months we shall be thinking about what our churches are called to be, and how that can be made to work best, in the present and into the next 10 years. By November a plan, based on the input of everyone who will be involved across the parishes of the Deanery, will be presented to the Diocese. All the Deanery plans will be looked at together to see where ideas and resources can be shared to best implement the work of God's Kingdom in each place.

To start this process, a group in the Deanery will be meeting to allocate tasks of consultation and information-gathering. Please think and pray how you might engage with this. There is a small, folded card for each church member and lots more information, with more to come, on the Diocesan website

<https://www.elydiocese.org/about/strategy/living-ely2025/>

This Week and Next

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

10am Shared Eucharist for Candlemas at Everton.

Wednesday February 2nd

9.30am Communion at the Rectory

Sunday 6th February, 4th Sunday before Lent

8.00am BCP communion at Hatley St George

10.30am Shared Communion at Everton

Electoral Roll

(See official notification document attached)

The Gamlingay with Hatley St George and East Hatley Electoral Roll will be revised between 9th and 12th of February. This is not a year when we have to completely renew the roll, I only need to make any necessary changes.

If you are not already on the roll and are eligible, it is an opportunity for you to have your name added. Please ask me for a form.

If you are already on the roll and wish to have your name removed, please contact me.

If you are already on the roll and have made changes to your contact details, please let me know so that I may make the necessary changes.

If your name is on the roll and you have made no changes you do not have to do anything.

My contact details are at the end of this newsletter.

Valerie Miller

Electoral Roll Officer for Gamlingay with Hatley St George and East Hatley

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity this last week ended with the celebration of the feast of the conversion of St Paul. Last Sunday evening Norman and I prayed together with no other company (on Zoom) a liturgy based around the service provided for the week. That service has been put together this year by Christians from the Holy Land, using the visit of the Magi and the Holy Family going into exile as a focus for prayer and reflection for our times. Here is the confession part of the service, a prayer we can all pray:



We praise you, for you did not abandon us despite our rebellion, but sent your Son to brighten our darkness and be our light and our salvation.

In him was life, and that life was the light of all humanity. And the light shines in the darkness.

We praise you, O Lord.

We worship you, O Lord, for you accompany us in the chaos of our life through the power of your Holy Spirit.

You light up our paths and give us wisdom and faith in a world of untruth and doubt.

We worship you, O Lord.

We thank you, O Lord, for you send us into the world to witness to this light, in our various churches and diverse cultures, and to proclaim the Good News of Jesus, the one true King, offering ourselves to him.

We thank you, O Lord.

May all the peoples bow before you and worship you. We have often preferred darkness, but you have given us light. Therefore, we come to you confessing our sins and saying:

We confess that we have turned from your ways.

We have harmed your good creation through our greed.

We have polluted and poisoned the air, earth and waters, destroying habitats and species.

*Lord have mercy. **Christ have mercy***

We confess that we have acted selfishly towards our brothers and sisters. We have put our own needs and desires above our commitment to justice. We have built walls between us and planted seeds of mistrust.

*Lord have mercy. **Christ have mercy.***

We confess that we have divided people based on ethnicity and culture, discriminating instead of celebrating difference. We have waged war, claiming Jesus for our side.

*Lord have mercy. **Christ have mercy.***

Forgive all these thoughts and deeds, O Lord, as we come before you in repentance.

*Lord have mercy. **Christ have mercy.***

Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, whom you have sent in the fullness of time to redeem all people,

we ask you to have mercy on us, forgive us our sins and transform us into his glorious image so we can shine as a beacon of hope in our troubled world.

*Lord have mercy. **Christ have mercy.***

Amen

Hilary.

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