

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



Weekly newsletter 15 April 2022



**** The 100th edition of our weekly newsletter ****



EASTER 2022

From Hilary...

Jesus the Christ is risen indeed, Alleluia! Happy Easter.

Even as we go through the days of remembrance of the events at the end of Jesus' physical earthly life, we know that Easter is coming because death was not the end. This Sunday we celebrate again (quite late this year) this core of our faith, so let us keep the feast! Thoughts and prayers are with all those who are 'out of commission' at this time. We still live in the shadow of the pandemic, as well as many of our fellowship dealing with other health issues for themselves and for those being cared for.

I asked in church a couple of weeks ago, as we entered Passiontide, what sort of people we consider ourselves to be: Palm Sunday (celebrating and expecting with excitement)? - Maundy Thursday (expectant, puzzled, anxious, but gifted)? - Good Friday (suffering, faithful but empty)? - Easter (dawning awareness, joy and realisation of salvation)? - Pentecost (fired up and enabled to share Good News)?

The truth is that (Alleluia!) we are inheritors of all of these. The great richness of our faith encompasses all that Jesus was and all that he showed us of God and God's Kingdom. Being Kingdom people is to share in all the events celebrated in the Church yearly cycle. Any one person may have more of one than another circumstance at any one time, and throughout a life each season will be relevant to most of us. Groups of Christians will encounter seasons too - it certainly felt rather 'Good Friday' when we found half the roof stolen at Gamlingay. But because of all the events of Holy Week we can, if we choose, live the 'life in its fulness' which we have been gifted in Jesus. So let us, once more, choose life, as we celebrate what God has done for each one of us. As Gamlingay Church congregation prepares to celebrate, with its community the restoration of the building, though possibly later than hoped-for (see Alec's report for more on that) we pray that we may all live the new, restored life that God gifts us in Jesus Christ.

We are the Body of Christ

I realise as I re-read last week's newsletter, that I failed to emphasise an important aspect of church life when describing the role of PCCs in sharing responsibility, with the incumbent, for the formal aspects of being part of the Church of England.

That important, indeed vital, point I did not make is that PCCs are not supposed to be the people who do all the work! I often use the introduction to the Peace which begins 'We are the Body of Christ' - and indeed we are, lay and ordained, active or passive, exactly that - a connected body whose effective function requires the healthful participation of each member if it is to function well. This is not particularly about being a 'good Anglican' but about being a loving and faithful follower of Jesus Christ - loving those we may not naturally like - not in our own strength (which will fail) but in the power of the Spirit, gifted at Pentecost through the life, death and resurrection of God made human in Jesus.

Prayer Together

Of course we pray together every Sunday, but there is more to it than that. Prayer is the nourishment of Christian life and we wouldn't think a meal once a week was enough - but of course we don't need to pray with others for our prayer to be valid, indeed personal private prayer is part of what we are taught. But we are also taught that 'where two or three are gathered in my name, there I am in the midst of them'.

Part of the worship questionnaire we are planning will be to establish how, when and where more opportunities for gathered prayer can and should be offered. But for the time being, I am flagging up that at least one, and usually three of us (worship leaders lay and ordained) gather at (or very near!) 8am daily for prayers on Zoom. Before the pandemic at least one of us would be in one of our churches, and the plan is to resume after Easter, personal circumstance permitting. Here is the **Meeting ID: 820 5991 7704** **Passcode: 621586**

Funeral on Easter Tuesday 19th April

Tilly Bibby's remains will be interred in Gamlingay Cemetery following the service at Everton St Mary. The coffin is planned to travel by horse-drawn hearse to Gamlingay following the service which starts at 1.30pm. There may, therefore, be some delay to those traveling the same route, and care will be needed on the road during the transfer time. Depending on whether you want to see the horses or would rather avoid the delay, you have been advised!

Services for the rest of April

Good Friday 15th April

12noon-2pm Reflections on the Way of the Cross at Everton – words & music for Good Friday
2pm Final Hour service of Communion from reserved Sacrament at Everton
Hatley St George and St Mary's Everton, churches open all day outside this time with worship material available

Holy Saturday 16th April -Churches decorated for Easter during the day

7.30pm Service of Light, renewal of Baptismal Vows, at Everton

Sunday 17th April, Easter Day with Easter egg hunts at Gamlingay and Everton

8.am BCP Communion for Easter at Hatley St George
9.30am Family Easter service at Gamlingay Ecohub with baptism of Esme Dickerson
11.15am Benefice Easter Communion at Everton

Tuesday 19th April

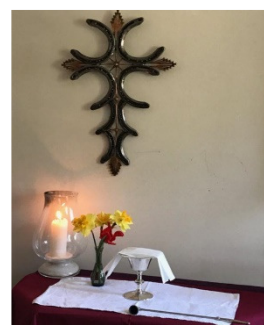
1.30pm Funeral Matilda (Tilly) Bibby at Everton, interment at Gamlingay cemetery

Sunday 24th April, First after (Second of) Easter - change of previous published service

10.30am Benefice Communion **at Everton Church**
6pm Deanery service of Evensong and Farewell to Venerable Hugh McCurdy, retiring Archdeacon of Huntingdon at Little Paxton Deanery 'mother church'.



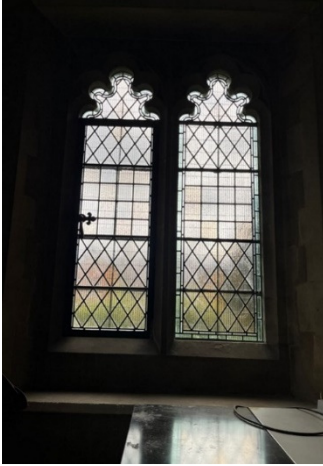
**HAPPY
EASTER**
From
Hilary and Norman



Project Update

The good news is that the work necessary for us to receive the National Churches Trust grant was completed on time along with all the necessary paperwork, this constituted 80% of the total project. Work on the roof is progressing to schedule and will be completed by 28th April. The roof alarm is fully operational. These are some of the windows that have been repaired.....

Vestry windows



North Porch window



Windows in the Chancel behind the choir stalls

(rarely seen from inside)



The less good news is that unforeseen problems have come to light.

- The stonework around the window on the North Aisle near the Children's Area has been found to be in a very poor condition and additional work will be necessary before the glazing can be fitted.
- Further instances of loose masonry have been identified in the South Transept, Aisle and Porch parapets.

This additional work is being costed and a decision on how to progress will be made as soon as possible. This work will inevitably delay the Project completion and will now take us well into May. However, it may be possible to recommence services in church while this additional work is carried out. Watch the **Newsletter** for more details.

Alec Hissett

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

Plans for May....

Sunday 1st May 3rd Sunday of Easter (First Sunday of the month)

9.30am Parish Eucharist at Hatley St George (or Gamlingay church if possible)
11.15am Parish Communion at Everton

Wednesday 4th May

9.30am Communion at Gamlingay TBC - please check

Sunday 8th May 4th Sunday of Easter (Second Sunday of the month)

9.30am Gamlingay Church Eucharist (possibly first back in church)
11.15am Parish Communion at Everton

Monday 9th May New PCCs of the Benefice meet together for the first time.

Wednesday 11th May

9.30am Communion at Gamlingay

Sunday 15th May 5th Sunday of Easter (third Sunday of the month)

9.30am Eucharist at Gamlingay

11.15am Eucharist at Everton

2.30 pm Baptism at Gamlingay

Wednesday 18th May

9.30am Communion at Gamlingay

Saturday 21st May

12 noon onwards - Celebration of Completion of the work on Gamlingay Church.

Refreshments, prayers and displays with opportunity to meet and thank one another.

This event will proceed regardless of the final completion, which by this date should not be far off with relatively little that will disrupt inside the church.

Sunday 22nd May 6th Sunday of Easter (fourth Sunday of the month)

10am Benefice Communion service at Gamlingay

2.30pm Baptism at Gamlingay

4pm Evensong at Everton

Saturday 28th May

1.30pm Marriage of Richard Astell and Camilla Regan at Everton St Mary

Thursday 26th May Ascension Day

8.00am Morning prayer for Ascension for Hatley St George

7.30pm Benefice Ascension Eucharist Service at Everton

Sunday 29th May Sunday after Ascension

9.30am Eucharist at Gamlingay

11.15am Eucharist at Everton

2.30pm Baptism?

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 May.

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