

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



Weekly newsletter 13 May 2022



From Hilary...

As the Easter Season draws to its close, Gamlingay church will shortly be open once more for worship. It has taken longer due to new works being discovered but we are at last, and after a lot of work, communicating with the architect and builders towards reaching a point when the building can be cleaned. Although work will not all be complete at opening, the remaining works will be confined to the south porch (not the one we use regularly) and one window, so the celebration planned for 21st May and the 'big clean' in preparation for it are still expected to go ahead - see below. Much gratitude goes to the people of Everton St Mary and Hatley St James for their hospitality to the 'homeless' congregation of St Mary's, Gamlingay. Not everyone has travelled elsewhere from Gamlingay, but those who have very much appreciated being made to feel so welcome. THANK YOU to everyone who has been part of that.

Big Clean

We await final confirmation, but plans are for Thursday evening 19th May and whenever we can on Friday 20th May. Please contact me (Hilary) in the first instance if you can help on either, or both, of these occasions.

Opening of St Mary the Virgin in Gamlingay

To celebrate the completion of the repair project, everyone is invited to a short thanksgiving service followed by refreshments with an opportunity to see what has been done and chat to some of the people involved in making it happen. This will take place on Saturday 21st May – see **Service Information** below.

The first full Sunday service back in church will be on 22nd May, with Benefice communion at 10am.

This event has had to be scaled back as work is not finally complete. However, Harvest on October 1st which is being planned as a cross-benefice celebration including a Gift Day, offers another opportunity for us to give thanks and we will be taking advantage of that.

Before then, Jubilee and Pentecost celebrations on 4th and 5th of June will also offer thanksgiving opportunities, when we will be reflecting on and celebrating some of the history of the Church and Church Hall buildings in Gamlingay

WE are the Body of Christ

While there are many things for which I continually give thanks, it has been saddening to find people I know to be good people and who want to follow the King of Love, missing God at work among us and not feeling or sharing that love - complaining about what is or is not being done. I have been surprised once or twice by the negativity towards some of what is being done in our churches. I am not good at 'blowing my own trumpet' - nor anyone else's for that matter - preferring to let things speak for themselves. However, in this sad world where looking good and advertising it is more important than being good, it is important that we Christians share and celebrate the good things, and make sure we know all the facts before we moan, and particularly that we do not run one another down. What we say outside church and out of the hearing of those to whom we are referring really DOES matter.

Jesus says 'Those who are not with us are against us' referring to those, supposedly inside, who undermine the Body. He also says 'those who are not against us are with us' referring to those 'outside' who nevertheless are good people who do the good things which those 'inside' are, or should be, doing.

As we continue to work with the Deanery on the way forward for our churches, it is essential that we live the life we are called into - there is nothing less attractive to those who do not belong than seeing those who do behaving negatively to one another or to those 'outside'.

Please Pray with me... 'We pray, not that God may be informed, but that we may be conformed'. Working out what God is doing and joining in is our constant task.

Between Ascension and Pentecost, I will be producing a Benefice daily prayer page on the 'Thy Kingdom Come' theme. Obviously, there is no obligation to join but do send me anything you would like to see included concerning our local corner of the Kingdom of God and I will try to incorporate it.

Topic one - moving away from a 'Blame Culture'.

The prayer which counters that is one we are all familiar with:

Lord God please grant me:

The grace to accept the things I cannot change

The strength to change the things I can change

The wisdom to know the difference

Jubilee



Preparations are moving apace in Gamlingay village. I've been shown a lovely leaflet produced by the Gransden group of churches (informally called the Bluebell Benefice). I am now waiting to be asked 'why haven't we done something like this in our parishes?' - to which the answer is, we are part of what the village is doing rather than trying to compete. Our input into the village Party Pack will be going to press this week or next. We are hosting a display - which requires people to produce it - in church covering the 7 decades of the Queen's reign, and there will be a bring-and-share party at the Church Hall where our churchyard Jubilee project will be on show. On Sunday both our churches will be hosting Pentecost services. The C of E is quite clear in instructions that the Jubilee does not replace Pentecost provision, however both Pentecost services will have a Jubilee addition and flavour. Do encourage friends and neighbours to join those of you who would be there anyway.

In Everton the children at the school will be receiving commemorative medals, I have no other village information.

The church is planning a Jubilee lunch following the morning service. Do be in touch if you would like to join that, so we can make sure numbers are catered for - and let us know if you would like to offer anything for a buffet-style meal (finger food).

A reminder of church opening times:

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.

Service information

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

9.30am Eucharist at Hatley church (Outdoor Church at Gamlingay Church Hall)
11.15am Eucharist at Everton

Saturday 21st May

Celebration of Completion of the work on Gamlingay Church - 2.30pm onwards (note changed time)

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

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

10am Benefice Communion service at Gamlingay - celebrating return to church, Outdoor Church at the Church Hall
2.30pm Baptism Holly Flaurance Poxson at Gamlingay
4pm Evensong at Everton

Thursday 26th May Ascension Day

8am Morning prayer for Ascension at Hatley St George and on Zoom
7.30pm Benefice Ascension Eucharist Service at Everton

Saturday 28th May

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

Sunday 29th May Sunday after Ascension

9.30am Gamlingay Parish Eucharist 'Thy Kingdom Come'
11.15am Everton Parish Communion 'Thy Kingdom Come'

Advance notice for June

Saturday 4th June Village Jubilee celebrations in Gamlingay

Sunday 5th June Pentecost Sunday and Jubilee celebrations in Gamlingay and Everton

9.30am Gamlingay Parish Eucharist Pentecost and Jubilee
11.15am Everton Parish Communion Pentecost and Jubilee followed by lunch

Sunday June 12th - Trinity Sunday

9.30am Gamlingay Parish Eucharist and Outdoor Church at the Church Hall
11.15am Everton Parish Communion

Saturday 18th June - Wedding Sinclair/Hooley at Hatley postponed

Sunday 19th June Trinity 1 - Hilary is probably away, service(s) TBC

YOU DID IT! *Congratulations*

Arrived in Santiago on Friday morning after nearly 6 weeks of walking but I made it !!

Dawn x



What an amazing achievement!

Well done Dawn!

Key contact details:

Hilary Young , Parish Priest	hilaryafyoung@gmail.com	650587
Chris Miller , LLM/Reader	cfm55@btinternet.com	650779
Nick Ingles , Gamlingay/Hatley 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
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