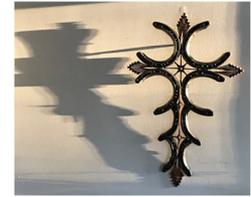


ST MARY'S GAMLINGAY, HATLEY ST GEORGE & ST MARY'S EVERTON



Weekly newsletter 9 September 2022



From Hilary...

Last Sunday's services were a joy, with their contrasting ways of giving glory to God. Jude and Eleanora were wonderful at their baptisms as we welcomed them into the Church Family at an All-Age communion in Gamlingay. There was birthday cake too! Congratulations to Anne Clarke on her special birthday and thank you to her for sharing a delicious cake. At Everton we joined Les in celebrating his years of licensed preaching ministry as we listened to him helping us to reflect on Jesus' challenging words on discipleship. As we move into Autumn, facing the likelihood of an even more challenging economic future, we pray for one another in all we say and do that we may be generous and visible followers of Jesus Christ.

Raising of Suspension

When I was appointed to these parishes, they were in a situation the Church of England calls 'suspended' which means that the historic patrons, although they are kept informed, are not responsible for the appointment of a new priest - that being the responsibility of the Bishop and his supporting staff only. This is why my technical title has not been Rector, although historically the post has had that title. I have used the title Parish Priest, because that is what I am and will continue to be, but the formal title Rector is to be restored to my appointment after consultation with the PCCs and Patrons, i.e. the suspension is lifted. Parishes are normally placed in suspension when reorganisation is envisaged, and for a period of up to 5 years. The previous suspension was due to be lifted last year. The process stalled then but has progressed as it should, and normally does, this year. What does this mean? Well not very much in reality. It means there will be a ceremony, to which Patrons will be invited, at which I will be formally appointed Rector. It means that the Benefice is no longer signalled as subject to further reorganisation, although it does not exclude that process in the future. It means that in a future vacancy the patrons could present a candidate themselves, but, in reality, the appointment process would be much the same. So, it is really business as usual, particularly as the Archdeacon is responsible for the necessary processes and we are awaiting the arrival of our new Archdeacon in a few weeks' time. However, I am very grateful for the support of the PCCs and patrons which was required for the appointment process and look forward to continuing to serve these parishes with a new formal title.

The announcement of the new Archdeacon of Huntingdon and Wisbech made in early July

The Bishop of Ely is delighted to announce that The Revd Canon Richard John St Clair Harlow, Rector of Tadley with Pamber Heath and Silchester and Area Dean of Basingstoke in the Diocese of Winchester is to be Archdeacon of Huntingdon and Wisbech. Richard succeeds the Ven Canon Hugh McCurdy who retired from his role as Archdeacon in April 2022.

The Revd Canon Richard Harlow was ordained in Southwell & Nottingham in 1989. He served his curacy in Hyson Green, Nottingham, followed by roles in Mansfield and Newark. In 2001 he was appointed Hospital Chaplain for Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals NHS Trust, then as Lead Chaplain & Multi Faith Team Leader at Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust. Since 2013 Richard has been Rector of Tadley with Pamber Heath and Silchester, in 2015 he was appointed Area Dean of Basingstoke and made Honorary Canon of Winchester Cathedral.

The Bishop of Ely, The Rt Revd Stephen Conway, said: *“We have been blessed by a good number of appointable candidates to succeed Hugh McCurdy as Archdeacon of Huntingdon and Wisbech. Canon Richard Harlow emerged as the person best suited to this important role within the Diocese for the next season of our life. Richard brings to us direct experience of leadership of a multi-parish benefice with strong rural elements. He is also currently leading a complex deanery. In addition, Richard has been a lead chaplain in the NHS during a period of significant organisational change. He was an undergraduate in Cambridge and then went on to prepare for ordination at Cranmer Hall, the evangelical theological college in Durham. His personal discipleship, his depth and range of experience and his commitment to mission and pastoral leadership make me very confident that he will fit well into the Bishop’s Staff and be quickly taken to the hearts of the clergy and laity of the archdeaconry. He is married to Kayla, who is an established spiritual director in her own right and just as excited about joining our common life”.*

BENEFICE

Food Project - 1st Birthday

Do continue to bring items to the churches on Sunday if this is convenient for you. Thank you for donations so far in both churches.



Well done everyone, especially Ros Hissett whose initiative the Tuesday birthday part was, and a big “thank you” to Sally Page for the extra food which was much appreciated as we celebrated the first year of doors open at the Alms House Chapel.



Open Churches Cambridge Historic Churches Trust this Saturday

<https://camhct.uk/ride-and-stride/>

Hilary will be at Little Paxton in the morning for the launch, all being well, then at Gamlingay church.

Sarah Titmus is providing a welcome at Hatley St George church

Everton church will be open with self-serve refreshments (thank you Jane Gurney) - even though Everton is just outside Cambridgeshire, the church is part of our Benefice.

PCCs

The PCCs of the Benefice meet on Monday by Zoom, with individual meetings following up for business specific to each parish. Your prayers and support are much valued for those who have been willing to take on this responsibility for decision-making and key activities. In both parishes the positive contribution of those not on the PCCs is invaluable in enabling the mission and ministry of our churches. May God bless us in all we do to serve one another and those beyond our church membership.

September services

Sunday 11th September Trinity 13

9.30am Parish Eucharist at Gamlingay
11.15am Parish Communion at Everton

Monday 12th September

7pm Zoom Benefice PCCS followed by Gamlingay PCC

Wednesday 14th September

9.30am Midweek Communion at Gamlingay
7.30pm Everton PCC

Thursday 15th September

2.00pm Funeral Peter Hayden at Gamlingay Church

Friday 16th September

12.30 pm Funeral 'Micky' Gladys Smethurst Cambridge Crematorium

Saturday 17th September

Wedding Jamie Woodbridge and Melissa Scuse at Everton
Gamlingay Village Show - Gamlingay Church providing refreshments

Sunday 18th September

9.15am Parish Eucharist at Gamlingay
4.00pm Evensong at Everton (communion by extension by request)

Wednesday 21st September

9.30am Midweek Communion at Gamlingay

Sunday 25th September

9.30am Parish Eucharist at Gamlingay
11.15am Parish Communion at Everton

Tuesday 27th September

2-4pm Memory Lane at the EcoHub

Wednesday 28th September

9.30am Midweek Communion at Gamlingay

NEWS FROM EVERTON

Evensong - reminder

The third Sunday service in September at Everton is an Evensong at 4pm. Depending on feedback, this pattern may be repeated in October. During Covid arrangements the opportunity to take communion was offered afterwards. Hilary is seeking feedback as to whether this is still required.

Lockdown Banner

By the time this Newsletter is out, the session for stitching together the letters for the banner which was planned during lockdown will have taken place. Watch this space for pictures and more information - the finished banner will have its first outing at Harvest.

From Jane Butcher

Coffee Morning

Everton Community Group will be holding a Coffee Morning on Sunday 11th September from 10am – 12 noon in the Village Hall. All most welcome!



From Jane Gurney

Do click on the link below for an interesting write up by the local locksmith who repaired Everton's ancient door locks – it is well worth a read.

<https://www.buildingconservation.com/books/churches2021/20/>

St Denis', East Hatley open for HOD

A quick reminder that St Denis' church in East Hatley will be open – with guided tours – for the first weekend of this year's Heritage Open Days festival, from 11.00 am to 4.00 pm on Friday 9th, Saturday 10th and Sunday 11th September. Full details in previous newsletters.

NEWS FROM GAMLINGAY

Churchyard Beech Tree

The church is much in the public eye when we deal with a major piece of work such as the felling of the wonderful old beech tree in the churchyard that has become unsafe. The shared responsibility for the churchyard in Gamlingay presents opportunities and challenges we do well to appreciate. Although the church is responsible for securing permissions from the Diocese (the faculty process operates) it is the Parish Council that is responsible for the work, including finding and paying contractors. As the tree is diseased and unsafe the Diocesan permission required is the responsibility of the Archdeacon. Permission has been given to leave a significant stump on site, and of course the neighbouring sycamore tree will be much more visible once the beech tree has gone. The appointed contractors will be following the requirements of Diocesan and County tree advisers as well as complying with Health and Safety and Insurance regulations. No one will be allowed on the secured site for the three days that the contractors are at work.

Negotiation is taking place over what wood might be left and how that might be distributed once the contractors have gone. Sad though it is to see a wonderful mature tree reach the end of its life, we hope to make the best of the whole churchyard site with the cooperation of the Council, as we make the area more wildlife friendly in our Jubilee project.

Green Week and Harvest Weekend

Invitations will be out this week for the special celebration and thanksgiving event at 6.30pm on Sunday 2nd October. Please contact Hilary to provide contacts for people who might get missed. We would like to welcome and thank all those who contribute to church life especially, on this occasion, all who have been part of the inception and paying for the recent church repairs, as well as anyone wishing to say 'thank you' for something special of their own. Singing group Vox Cantab will sing for us and there will be refreshments and a presentation, do make this a date if you can. We hope to broadcast on Zoom for those who can't be there physically - again we would like to hear from anyone who wants to be part of that.

All Saints and Light Party - repeat information

All Saints is being celebrated this year on the last Sunday of October, and as it is a 5th Sunday, those will be Benefice services. Of course, All Saints Day itself is on November 1st which is a Tuesday this year. This means Halloween falls on the Monday following the day we will have celebrated All Saints in church - it isn't in half term this year for most of our local children. We shall, nevertheless, be having a Light Party that evening in partnership with other Christians in the village. Contact Hilary or Sandra to join in with this seasonal alternative to celebrating the things of darkness. We want our young people to have fun, but also to be equipped to deal with the darkness of evil rather than vulnerable to the anxiety and fear it feeds on. The end of the Light party will be a meeting in church to light candles - a particularly good opportunity to use Baptism and Confirmation candles, say prayers and celebrate Jesus, the Light of the World, the light that shines in the darkness and is not overcome by it.

Sunday Service pattern is likely now to continue through the Autumn, with a service in each of the two parish churches every Sunday and a service at Hatley every month. However, we hope to have a pattern for Advent and the New Year which provides for some of those who are at present prevented from joining worship because of the timing of services, while working within the constraints of the possible (two communion services on the same day and at the same time in different places is not!).

We are also looking at special provision for pre-school children and their parents/carers.

Church opening times:

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

Hatley church can be opened on request.

Gamlingay church open daily 10am – 5pm.

**JUST FOR NEXT WEEK, please
let Ian Parker have any
articles or pictures for the
newsletter by Tuesday evening
to iangparker@hotmail.com**