

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



Weekly newsletter 14 April 2023



From Hilary...

Blessings for this first week of Easter.

Although this is called 'low week' in some church circles, because we've been on such a high at Easter and it is traditionally the time clergy take off (which I am doing), there are important items to include this week so here they are in brief, with a big THANK YOU to people helping to make things happen.

Gamlingay APCM is nearly upon us. If you are on the Electoral Roll, please think about whether you could serve, or support someone else to do so, on the PCC in furthering the mission and ministry in this parish (which includes the Hatleys) as part of a Benefice. Governance is an essential part of the Church of England, and increasingly needs committed lay participation to make it work in partnership with the Parish Priest. We are very blessed that Nick Ingles is willing to continue as Treasurer in Gamlingay and Richard in Everton - probably the most burdensome of the many tasks needed to keep the church running. We have had a year without Churchwardens, and this takes its toll not only on the running of the church but personally on the ordained ministry it is meant to support and work with. The PCCs have worked hard to fill the gap, but it would help hugely to have named people to coordinate this effort.

Finances: Thank you SO much to those who responded to Nick and myself with offers of financial help or additional money in the church plates. It is not too late to do so, and more is needed if you meant to and did not, but what we've already received is a GREAT help. We will publish outcomes next time, but a special thank you to the person who got in touch with a generous one-off donation as well as an increase in monthly giving, reaching me via Nick in time for Easter Day itself - better than any chocolate Easter egg, and something that will make a lasting difference.

Easter: I hope others shared my experience of Easter this year in that it was most uplifting to be part of, although very tiring with the shortage of personnel due to illness and other commitments, and a very late session at the Cathedral on the Saturday evening.

WELCOME to Ann and Jess, already with us regularly, confirmed on Holy Saturday, and to Linda who was baptised on Easter Sunday at Gamlingay.

A HUGE thank you to everyone who worked so hard to make all the churches beautiful and suitable for the season. They were all lovely, and I know took time and effort to produce. Flower arrangers - you know who you are - THANK YOU.

To help for future years (as we had some last-minute adjustments that not everyone was aware of) here are the key elements of Holy Week and Easter decoration in churches - depending on the tradition of each worshipping congregation. Usually included are:

- Lent tradition of no flowers maintained until Holy Saturday in preparation for Sunday.

Exception to this - on Maundy Thursday, a 'Garden of Repose' where the reserved sacrament used on Good Friday is placed until used. In some churches the Garden of Repose is an extraordinarily elaborate affair (check out the internet for competitive entries to the 'biggest and best'!).

It remains until after the sacrament is consumed and then either removed or adjusted for Easter Day. Special thanks to Chris and Eileen who did such a nice job for Anne who has done it beautifully in previous years at Gamlingay - I think this tradition may be new to the Benefice in my time?

- A cross, hung with a purple drape from Good Friday, changed to a white drape on Easter Day, to which flowers are also added.

- Some representation of the tomb and garden - sometimes put in on Friday with no flowers which are then (and maybe eggs!) added on Saturday, with representation of the tomb, open and empty on Sunday morning. We had three very different versions this year. Thank you and well done to Sarah in Hatley, the Endersby family in Everton and Ann (newly confirmed) in Gamlingay who helped me to make up for the usual contributors running out of time. For Easter Day - the Easter (Paschal) Candle is placed centrally, its stand decorated with flowers - Roderick has done this beautifully for Gamlingay every year in my time, Beverley and her friend Maggie helped me do this in Everton, we don't have a stand in Hatley (?yet).

- And of course, the whole church filled with flowers on Easter Day, with a 'sneak peek' at the Easter Vigil service on Holy Saturday if there is one (we were at the cathedral this year).

SERVICES IN APRIL:

Sunday April 16th Easter 1

9.30am Parish Eucharist at Gamlingay St Mary the Virgin

11.15am Parish Eucharist at Everton St Mary

No midweek communion on Wednesday at Gamlingay

Thursday April 20th

Time tbc Funeral of Sylvia Anne Godfrey at Gamlingay

Sunday April 23rd Easter 2

9.30am Parish Eucharist at Gamlingay St Mary the Virgin, followed by APCM in the Church Hall

2.30pm St George's Day parade service at Gamlingay

4pm Evensong at Everton with Communion from reserved sacrament by request.

Wednesday April 26th

9.30am Midweek communion Gamlingay.

Sunday 30th Easter 3

9.30am Parish Eucharist at Gamlingay St Mary the Virgin

11.15am Parish Eucharist at Everton St Mary

Wednesday May 3rd

9.30am Midweek communion at Gamlingay

Easter Donations

Further to last week's plea for Easter donations to shore up our dwindling financial resources, we have been asked to include information about methods of payment. If you are able to donate electronically you may like to make use of the link or QR code provided on the attached information sheet about on-line giving.

Alternatively, for a bank transfer the details are as follows: Barclays Bank, Acc 30122807, Sort Code 20-74-81 Name: Gamlingay with Hatleys PCC

Cash or cheques may be brought to church or delivered to The Rectory. Cheques should be made payable to: Gamlingay with Hatleys PCC. *Thank you.*

NEWS FROM EVERTON

Everton PCC consultation preferred date is now confirmed. The Diocesan Mission and Ministry team will support us, and our new Archdeacon Richard will probably be present. The **afternoon of Sunday 14th May** will consist of guided discussion and planning with an interval for tea.

NEWS FROM GAMLINGAY

'Simple Lunch' takes place this Tuesday from 12.30 - 2pm in Gamlingay Church Hall.

NB: The St George's Day Parade Service and APCM on April 23rd.

GUILD OF ST MARY

Open Meeting - All welcome.



The next meeting of the Guild will take place on Monday 17th April – 7.30pm in Gamlingay Church Hall.

Our speakers will be Pippa and Steve Temple who will be telling us about their fascinating and inspiring 'labour of love' restoring Impington Hall and Gardens. This promises to be a very interesting and enjoyable talk and we will be happy to welcome anyone who would like to join us. The fee for non-members is now £5 and includes tea/coffee, biscuits and a raffle ticket.

May Fundraising

It has been suggested that we should try to replicate last year's 'Merrymaking in May' by holding an event at our homes and inviting others to partake of a light lunch, afternoon tea etc and charging/donating a sum to church funds to bolster the pot. Watch this space!

The Task Group for Events and Communications have a calendar for the year of future events with some still under discussion.

Future Events – Save the Date

- Coronation Big Lunch – Sunday, 7th May, 12 noon to 3pm in the churchyard, open to all
- Flower Festival – 24th and 25th June – **see invitation letter attached.**
- Summer Fete - 24th June
- Afternoon Tea – 16th July
- Village Show – 16th September - Refreshments tbc.
- Harvest Supper – 29th September
- Quiz – November, date to be arranged.
- 9th December – Christmas Fair and Grand Draw

Other options are being explored as well to raise funds. If you have any ideas or want to join the group, please let Jane know by emailing janeorch@hotmail.com.

As you will see from the following notice, the Annual Parochial Church Meeting will be held on Sunday 23rd April 2023 in St Mary's Gamlingay Church Hall at 11am .

This is our annual meeting when we elect our PCC for the coming year, look at the financial situation and also celebrate all the events that have taken place over the past year as well as general parish activities. Anyone is welcome to attend but only those people who are on the electoral roll of the parish will be allowed to vote.

Dawn Martin, PCC Secretary



NOTICE OF ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

Parish of GAMLINGAY WITH HATLEY ST GEORGE AND EAST HATLEY

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting will be held in St Mary's, Gamlingay Church Hall on the 23rd day of April 2023 at 11am

For election of parochial representatives of the laity as follows –

- To the Deanery Synod - 2 representatives.
- To the Parochial Church Council - 9 representatives.

For the appointment of the Independent Examiner.

For the consideration of:

(a) a report on changes to the Roll since the last annual parochial church meeting OR a report on the numbers entered on the new Roll;

(b) an Annual Report on the proceedings of the parochial church council and the activities of the parish generally;

(c) the financial statements of the council for the year ending on the 31st December preceding the meeting;

(d) the annual report on the fabric, goods and ornaments of the church or churches of the parish;

(e) a report of the proceedings of the deanery synod; and

(f) other matters of parochial or general Church interest.

In this Notice, 'parish' means an ecclesiastical parish.

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.

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