

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



Weekly newsletter 8 January 2021



From Hilary:

Blessings for the Feast of Epiphany which we celebrated a couple of days early last Sunday and then marked on Wednesday morning, on the actual day (Jan 6th). This Sunday we remember the start of Jesus' ministry, when he 'came out' as the Messiah at his Baptism. An opportunity, perhaps, to revisit our own baptism promises?



Epiphany Crib

We are now in Epiphany Season, just as the country comes to terms with rapidly rising cases of the new strain of Covid 19. The themes of the season are an important antidote to the general mood-lowering of January which can be hard going at the best of times but particularly as we are told, once again, to stay at home.

So, let us follow the light, keep tending to our own souls and in so doing support one another in hope, peace, joy and love.

Church Services January

Public worship is still permitted but that does not mean it is always advisable. In our rural setting we believe we are still OK at Gamlingay with the measures we can take and that are in place, but please think about whether it is right for you to attend.

Services are available on Zoom links. For Wednesdays, a weekly repeat link is in place; a Sunday link is published weekly.

For those who do attend in person, please follow the instructions:

- **Do not mingle and socialise before or after services.**
- **Wear face coverings**
- **Use hand hygiene**
- **Keep distanced**

We have reluctantly taken the decision to suspend public worship in Everton whilst continuing at Gamlingay to allow people to attend church where they may receive Communion in one kind, in person. At the same time the service will be broadcast on Zoom.

Everton Church is open on Sundays only now for private prayer. The weekly worship material will be available to use in church if people wish to do so.

For the time being, under review, there continue to be communion services on Wednesdays and Sundays at Gamlingay at 9.30am. These services are also available live on Zoom.

Church Finances, Gamlingay and the Hatleys

THANK YOU to those who have responded to the request for top-up donations. At the time of writing, we are still over £3,000 short of our target to pay the full Ministry Share for 2020 but there may be more to come. I am so proud of the efforts people are making to show we can make ends meet in Gamlingay and the Hatleys even in hard times.

Here again is the round-up of what has been achieved, including monies donated for the Santa drive-round on the Sunday before Christmas.

Grand Draw	£1,548
Christmas Catalogue	£ 380
Guild Recipe Book	£ 555
Roof Fund Donations	£ 120 (Christmas Trees)
Children's Society (Christingle cash)	£ 100
Santa Collection -for Roof fund	£ 120

Thinking about Faith - Bible Study/Meetings

The four sessions during Advent were attended by a relatively small group of people but there was helpful reflection (thank you session leaders!) and some fun and laughter too, as we considered the weekly themes of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love in the light of the Sunday readings.

It is proposed to continue with weekly study time, reflecting on the Sunday theme with the readings. Previously, at our 10.30am Tuesday sessions, we have reflected on the Gospel reading for the following Sunday. For this season, through January and into the middle of February (covering Epiphany to Candlemas and the two Sundays counting down to Lent) we will be looking, retrospectively, at all the readings with a main focus on the Gospel.

The first session is on Tuesday 12th January on the theme of Baptism.

Please be in touch with Hilary or Chris to let us know

if you would be interested either to receive any written material beforehand or to attend sessions on Zoom.

Email hilaryafyoung@gmail.com or cfm55@btinternet.com or call 650587

Sessions will be either mornings or evenings, whichever suits the majority.

Please tell us if you will attend and which of the following times work best for you....

Morning : 10am or 10.30am OR Evening : 7.30pm or 8pm.

Sessions will be timed to last an hour with 15 minutes social/refreshment time at the start.

Hilary

A reminder about giving donations to the church especially needed at this time as detailed above by Hilary.

Our preferred method of receiving funds is directly into the PCC bank account. The details are:

Barclays Bank
Sort code: 20-74-81
Account no: 30122807
Account name: Gamlingay with Hatleys PCC

If you feel able, please put '2020 help' in the reference box of the payment. If you are unable to pay online, cash and cheques are still very welcome. Either put through Hilary's door or Ian's (16 Brockwood Close).

THANK YOU.

A HUGE 'THANK YOU' FROM SPARKS!



At the start of December, the Sparks children made some hot chocolate cones and 'magic' reindeer food and sold them in the farm shop raising, in the process, a magnificent sum of £180. This could not have been done without the amazing support, yet again, from **Woodview Farm** who kindly donated all the supplies. **THANK YOU!**

(And another 'Thank You' from us all to the Sparks children and their leaders for such a lovely, imaginative idea!)

2020 LOCKDOWN QUIZ

*Here we are again, needing things to occupy our minds during lockdown!
How many questions about 2020 can you answer without consulting Google?*

1. What was the name of the powerful storm which battered the country in February?
2. Whose statue was torn down and thrown into Bristol Harbour?
3. What day and time were "Claps for the NHS"?
4. In December which anniversary was celebrated by Coronation Street?
5. Which comedian won 2020's Strictly Come Dancing?
6. In April Boris Johnson and Carrie Symonds had a baby. What did they call him?
7. In February, a new £20 note was issued featuring whose face?
8. What is the name of the latest James Bond film now to be released this year?
9. Where did Dominic Cummings drive to in order to test his eyesight?
10. What is the name of Joe Biden's wife?
11. Which hospital treated Boris Johnson for Covid?
12. What role has Dawn French re-visited for a series of Christmas specials?

ANSWERS NEXT WEEK!

(By the way, if you haven't yet tried Peter Mann's on-line jigsaws of the two Hatley churches do have a go. They are fun and quite challenging. His estimation of 45 minutes to complete one is, in our experience, on the optimistic side! The links can be found in last week's Newsletter)

A reminder of some key contact details:

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We are continuing to produce this newsletter every week into 2021. Please let Brenda have any articles or pictures by Tuesday evening each week to Brenda.elcome@ymail.com or phone 650489