

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



Weekly newsletter 5 February 2021



From Hilary:

As we look towards Lent, as well as our Church Annual Meetings, here is the Bishop's Lent Challenge which, as so often with God at work, links neatly with the priorities we had identified among us - care for the natural world and turning to God in prayer, especially in being more attentive in listening to God and allowing his power to be at work in our lives. Let us hope, dare and believe. Christian hope, as the Bishop reminds us, 'is not trying hard to be optimistic for the future. Rather, Christian hope is what happens when we are set alight with the vision for God's world as one where all can flourish.' Are we brave enough? I think so.

Message from the Bishop of Ely

Dear Friends,

Over the last year, lots of things have changed – what we can do, who we can see, where we can go, and how we learn. We have planned and looked forward to things that haven't happened, and we have had to become used to dealing with a lot of uncertainty. Now, as many more people are being vaccinated against Covid-19, we hope for a future in which we can overcome the challenges of this virus. The commitment of so many especially young people to combatting the climate crisis gives hope for the future of creation. The commitment of people across the world to racial justice offers hope for a world where everyone is valued equally as part of that good creation.

Here in our Diocese of Ely, we have a vision of people fully alive. Hope is about believing that life in all its fullness – in all the ways the world is beautiful and amazing – really is possible. Christians believe that hope is possible because of Jesus, and because he came among us as light in the darkness and then defeated the darkness when he rose from the dead. Hope is living into that beautiful and amazing future, and making it true now, in our own lives, and families, and schools, and communities.

In this challenge, I invite you to think about your hopes; to name your hopes and how that hope can make a difference. I invite you to dream out loud together about the beautiful, amazing fullness of life you want to see.

At the inauguration of President Biden and Vice-President Harris on 20 January, the poet **Amanda Gorman said this:**
When day comes, we step out of the shade, aflame and unafraid.

The new dawn blooms as we free it.

For there is always light, if only we're brave enough to see it.

If only we're brave enough to be it.

This Lent Challenge is a challenge to be brave in hope – to be brave enough to see the light and to be the light. I hope you enjoy that challenge, and I can't wait to find out all about your hopes and dreams for the future.

+Stephen

Candlemas and Holocaust Memorial

Thank you to those of you who were able to share the service last week. It was very moving to offer peace over the internet with all our different candle holders, and then to have Nick's wonderful recording of a movement of one of the Bach unaccompanied 'cello suites with some of the candle pictures shared at the end.



The jigsaw this week is of the lovely symbolic picture my sister did for me before she died, together with the wreath it inspired for her funeral - both with candles symbolic of light and life - Jesus the light of the world.

<https://www.jigsawplanet.com/?rc=play&pid=37b6613c165d>

Here are one or two other Candlemas candle pictures, the dark one is my Holocaust memorial candle lit on Wednesday's commemoration day last week.



Some Candlemas Traditions

I'd heard a rhyme about the weather on Candlemas day predicting weather in the future and discovered, as I looked it up, that there are many with the same theme - sunny and cold is bad news, windy and wet is good - one version goes like this:...

**If Candlemas Day be fair and bright,
Winter will have another fight.**

**If Candlemas Day brings cloud and rain,
Winter will not come again"**

The day was quite a mixed bag here - and where we had dull and then bright, the north had snow, but whatever that predicts, I expect we've not seen the last of the cold weather.



I liked this other Candlemas connection, one I'd not heard until recently - Snowdrops are also known as Candlemas Bells. Perhaps we can share some of our pictures of these lovely little hardy harbingers of Spring, so especially welcome this year?

Every blessing
Hilary

A reminder of some key contact details:

Hilary Young , Parish Priest	hilaryafyoung@gmail.com	650587
Alec Hissett , Gamlingay/Hatley Churchwarden	alechissett@hotmail.com	650052
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Jane Gurney , Everton Churchwarden		
Ann Naseby , Everton PCC Secretary	annpnaseby@btinternet.com	
Ian Parker , Treasurer to both PCCs	iangparker@hotmail.com	652992
Jane Butcher , Everton Assistant Churchwarden	jane.butcher59@googlemail.com	680105

What's on this next week (Sunday 7th-Saturday 13th)

Sunday 7th February Sexagesima - Second Sunday before Lent

9.30 Zoom All Age Communion/Eucharist

Hilary Young is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting

Topic: Benefice All Age Communion/Eucharist Time: Feb 7, 2021 09:30 AM London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81097674937?pwd=bVhxaHRMbVExandzLytaZHJ2RlVxZz09>

Meeting ID: 810 9767 4937 Passcode: 481591

Every day : Morning Prayer at 8am

Do join us - Chris, Hilary and Sandra if you can, on Zoom.

Hilary Young is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting. Topic: Morning Prayer. Time: This is a recurring meeting open at 8am daily

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82059917704?pwd=ZURoN0xGMVFyckgySk53R1h2am9Gdz09>

Meeting ID: 820 5991 7704. Passcode: 621586

Monday 8th February

4pm Benefice Wardens' Meeting. This is a weekly meeting for these Covid times, to enable weekly developments to be considered. Do be in touch with Jane G and Jane B in Everton, Chris Miller and Alec Hissett in Gamlingay with any concerns which they will bring, at their discretion, for reflection at the meeting. My special thanks to these people when they are able to give this time to support the decisions of the Benefice.

Tuesday 9th February

Weekly - **Bible Study** looking back at the Sunday readings and offering an opportunity to explore, with the Sunday's preacher, what the readings mean for us.

Hilary Young is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting. Topic: Tuesday Bible Study

Time: This is a recurring meeting open 10am Tuesdays

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84472818795?pwd=TWxKNnc4cFMzdTNISU80UnBCdTJ3Zz09>

Meeting ID: 844 7281 8795. Passcode: 023089

Weekly **Families 'learning together' time around 4pm.** Preparations for the following Sunday and preparations for Communion (confirmation for some) Please ask for the Zoom and time for the week if you or someone you know is interested.

Wednesday 10th February

9.30am Midweek Communion - a said and slightly shortened version of the communion service, again broadcast on Zoom, from Gamlingay Church.

Hilary Young is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting. Topic: Wednesday Communion

Time: This is a recurring meeting 9.30am each Wednesday

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85779595724?pwd=emtPNktraUVIV1hVTjZ0TlBTWdVVUT09>

Meeting ID: 857 7959 5724. Passcode: 958554

Thursday 11th February

8pm Adults 'learning together' time - a safe place to ask whatever questions seem relevant that week, however trivial or unorthodox they might seem, in the light of what the Bible says and who Jesus is. Please ask for the Zoom if you are interested.

Sunday 14th February Sunday next before Lent (Quinquagesima)

9.30 Zoom Communion/Eucharist

Churches Open reviewed this week,

Everton: Sunday only, but with the key available for other visits.

Hatley: the church can be opened on request.

Gamlingay: the church is open after morning services on Sunday and Wednesday.

Fundraising Meeting

Lots of good ideas were shared and there are all sorts of plans. Watch out for more but here are some to work on now:

Church(es) Calendar

The plan is to produce a calendar of local scenes, one for each month, to be sponsored by local businesses to cover printing costs. The pictures will be chosen by public vote from entries to an exhibition held in September. The question is, do we want one for each parish? Please let Hilary know if this should be a Gamlingay and Hatley calendar, whole Benefice, or if we should do two (or even three).

Valentine's Day Bake

There is a proposal for an on-line cake sale for Valentine's Day. If you would be willing to bake cakes (large or small), biscuits etc., (Valentine themed) please contact Alec as soon as possible so that we can assess if this is feasible. Contact details below.

Easter Catalogue

There are plans to produce an "Easter Catalogue" (as we did at Christmas) for home-made food and craft items which people are prepared to offer for sale.

All offers of food items will be welcomed but those with an Easter theme would be especially good, e.g. Hot cross buns, Simnel cake, Easter biscuits, anything with chocolate! Maybe some home-made sweets would sell well at Easter and could be made well in advance.

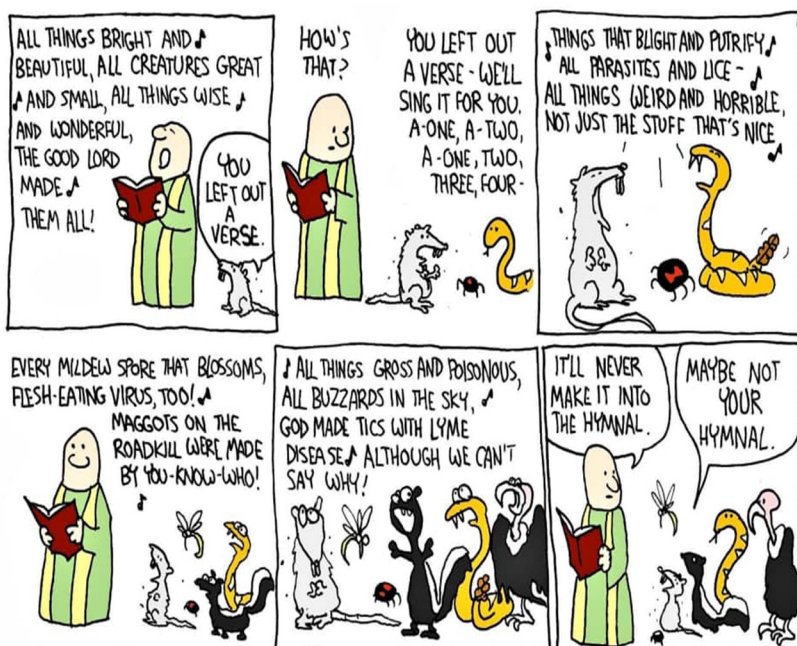
If you knit or sew how about making some Easter Bunny egg cosies or some bright and cheerful face masks? No doubt you will have other brilliant ideas of your own!

Please let Alec Hissett know, as soon as possible, what you would be willing to contribute so that the catalogue can be compiled and circulated in good time.

alechissett@hotmail.com Tel : 01767 650052

NB : The Christmas Catalogue raised £380. Let's see if we can at least double that at Easter.

Food for thought and a chuckle from Anne Bunker



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