

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



Weekly newsletter 19 February 2021



From Hilary:

So, we are into Lent with pancakes on Tuesday and the Ash Wednesday service having started us off. This Lent we shall miss meeting together in person and sharing the hospitality to which we have become accustomed in previous years. It is a reminder of how we often don't fully value things until we no longer have them. I wonder what you have chosen as a Lent discipline this year? Several people I have spoken to have said they don't think giving something up is right this year and it is certainly true that none of us is as resilient as we might have been in other years. But that means that we need, even more than usual, to find meaning and purpose in our lives as we seek a closer walk with God. We need to get away from 'all or nothing' thinking as we set ourselves challenges. God is perfect but not a perfectionist in His expectations for us, that is what Jesus is about - an example and the means to make up the deficit when we fall short. So, what will you do? It helps to share so that there are others to help you stay on track.

My personal discipline will be 6pm prayers on Facebook Live - having abjectly failed to start these at the beginning of the month as intended. I have little doubt that I will forget some evenings, or have tasks that overtake the time, but I'm going to keep on trying.

Every blessing

Hilary

Church Annual Meetings

Our parishes are required by law to hold annual meetings each year. The revised church representation rules say these Annual Parochial Church Meetings (APCMs) must take place before the end of May (used to be April) of the year following the year on which they report. The meetings are preceded by a parish meeting to elect Church Wardens, then the other members of the Church Council, who are thereby the Trustees of the parish charity, are elected. At the APCM only church members, i.e. those on the Electoral Roll of the parish, may vote for and serve on the PCC.

Like any charity, the Trustees (PCC) must publish an annual report on the activities of their charity in relation to its charitable objectives. The report must account for the money that has come in and gone out in relation to the activities of the charity. This year's meetings will be reporting on the year January to December 2020.

The APCMs are an opportunity to celebrate what has been achieved, and to look forward to what is to come, to thank God for everyone, and to give thanks for the work that has been done. I will be writing to all church members in both the parishes before the meetings as well as contributing to the meetings themselves. Your support is greatly appreciated.

This year, in these unprecedented times, APCMs are being allowed on Zoom, to enable elections and reporting to take place when public meetings in person are not possible. We shall greatly miss the social opportunity these meetings have given us, and it is important that those not using Zoom can still participate. It is possible to phone in to a Zoom session, please ask and help others to be involved.

Nomination papers for elected representatives will be available on-line by request and in hard copy in the churches prior to the meetings.

Everton cum Tetworth APCM has been postponed from the originally intended date at the end of this month, to allow time for completion of the report. The PCC will have met this week to fix a new date, which will be after Easter and will be published in due course.

Gamlingay with Hatley APCM : Notice is given elsewhere in this publication.

Churches Open - reviewed this week, remain as previous...

Everton - a change of date for the asbestos work means the church is open this week and will be closed next week on Sunday.

Hatley church can be opened on request.

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

Lent Study in the Benefice 2021 begins this week - February 23rd and 24th

Zoom sessions, on Listening and Prayer, are on Tuesday evenings between 7.30 and 9.00pm and on Wednesday mornings starting at 10.30am.

Week 1, 23rd/24th February

Prayer and Listening - Introduction

Week 2, 2nd/3rd March

Prayer and Listening to God in Creation

Week 3, 9th/10th March

Prayer and Listening to God in Church

Week 4, 16th/17th March

Prayer and Listening to others

Week 5, 23rd March/24th

Prayer and Listening to myself

Lent Jars, containing daily challenges on topics to do with care for our world, are already being distributed and will continue to be available. If you would like either a made-up jar or contents to fill your own, please let Hilary, Sandra or Sarah know. Whether or not you join in with the challenges, why not put a jar aside as a 'Jar of Grace' to make a collection through Lent, to be returned at Easter? Collections will be shared between the church they are given to and Christian Aid.

Sunday 21st February Lent 1

9.30 Zoom Benefice Eucharist Meeting ID: 846 3182 1657 Passcode: 663415

What's on this next week (Sunday 21st February-Saturday 27th February)

Every day -Morning Prayer at 8am

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

Topic: Morning Prayer. Time: This is a recurring meeting open at 8am daily. Join Zoom Meeting ID: 820 5991 7704. Passcode: 621586

Monday 22nd 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 this time.

7pm Gamlingay PCC meets on Zoom

Tuesday 23rd February

Lent Study 7.30pm Meeting ID: 844 7281 8795 Passcode: 023089

Wednesday 24th February

9.30am Eucharist on Zoom Meeting ID: 857 7959 5724 Passcode: 958554 followed by.....

10.30am Lent Study repeat session on same Zoom link as the service.

Sunday 28th February Lent 2

9.30am Zoom Communion/Eucharist

Beacons of Hope...



The brave little crocuses on Charnocks Close green have continued to thrive despite the recent extremely cold and frosty weather. Inspiration for us all perhaps in these trying times!



Gerry enjoyed observing the birds on a recent 'essential outing'!

This cheeky racing pigeon came very close and was a right little poser!



Even on a dull day this graceful swan had a reflection in the water.



Every year The Parish of Gamlingay with the Hatley's holds an APCM (Annual Parochial Church Meeting) which is a meeting we are legally obliged to hold and is the business meeting of the church (similar to an AGM held by businesses, charities and other groups.) This year our APCM will, for the first time ever, be held over Zoom as we are unable to meet together and will take place on Sunday 7th March 2021 at 11.15 am. Forms for nomination to the Parochial Church Council are available in St Mary's Church.

Formal notice of the meeting will be forwarded together with this newsletter.

Dawn Martin
Secretary to the PCC

FUNDRAISING

Many thanks to everyone who baked for the Valentine virtual cake stall and to all those who purchased items for their Valentine's Day celebration. The event raised £72 for Church funds.

Offers for the Easter Catalogue are coming in and more are needed. Please contact me with your offers of not just food items, but also Easter themed crafts.

Alec: tel. 01767 650052 or alechissett@hotmail.com

Message received last week from Anne Bunker

A friend of mine who is a vicar in Essex posted this prayer today on Facebook, and it was just what I needed. I believe it originates from The Community of Aiden and Hilda.



*Circle us, Lord
 Keep strife without, keep peace within
 Keep fear without, keep hope within
 Keep pride without, keep trust within
 Keep evil out, keep good within
 May we walk in the hope of your kingdom
 Fill us with your light and love
 Be with us all through this day
 Father, Son, and Holy Spirit*



A **HUGE** thank-you to all who have contributed to our appeal for additional funds to help us meet the deficit from 2020. All donations, large or small, are very gratefully appreciated by the PCC. Some have been anonymous and some have not, but please accept this THANK YOU for your continued financial support.

A reminder of some key contact details:

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