

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



Weekly newsletter 8 April 2022



From Hilary...

As we approach Holy Week, winding up our Lent reflections, this is a good time to reflect on the solution that God provides to failure and condemnation. Repentance and forgiveness are brought into a new place with the death and resurrection of Jesus, a new path into the presence of God is set before us for us to choose to walk or not. It isn't always easy to recognise the places where we are holding grudges, harbouring un-repentance and have need of confession and forgiveness. Perhaps the hardest thing is to admit that we are, or have been, wrong and cannot 'fix' that. This is perhaps particularly in our negative judgements and treatment of others. There is no excuse in the Gospel for taking revenge, by whatever means, for the wrongs done to us. Nor are we free to withdraw our fellowship from our brothers and sisters in Christ because we feel mistreated by them. This doesn't mean we must be nice to them in person and grumble behind their backs, but rather that we take the need to God in prayer and that includes ourselves.

The events of Holy Week are full of examples of the damage that can be done to both the perpetrator and the victim of wrongdoing (sin). The wonder and joy of our faith is that, through the darkness of Good Friday and despair of Jesus' death, comes a better way than forceful defiance to overcome the destructive powers of evil. God in Jesus opens up a path to redemption (paying the price on behalf of another) bringing us back into a place of love and compassion. Judas and Peter both let Jesus down; their acts of betrayal were different but not 'better' or 'worse'. Judas could not cope with what he had done and gave up on life. Peter stayed with life and was given the opportunity to make amends.

We have a choice in how we deal with our unthinking mistakes and deliberate wrong choices. May God grant us grace to make Peter's choice.

Leading our Churches

I have been asked about what PCCs decide, where to find out about what is going on and how to take concerns to church leadership. I thought it might be helpful to share the answers. I should first say that, at a time when everyone is under increasing pressure, I am hugely grateful to those who are willing to serve on PCCs, as well as understanding of those who do not want this. As younger generations are increasingly less interested in the structures that served our older generation, we continue to try and operate what we have inherited. If we are to serve God where we have been placed we must be patient with one another when it isn't always easy or as effective as we'd like....

The short answers:

- * *What PCCs are for* - to take responsibility for the mission and ministry of the church in the Parish they serve. They are bound by law of the land which is often archaic, has been recently revised but is still sometimes cumbersome.
- * *How to find out what the PCC is doing* - look at what is published. Minutes, once approved, are published on the church notice boards. More helpfully, probably, read the Newsletter for key items which will often be enacted and publicised before the next meeting formally approves the minutes.
- * *How to interact* - write or speak to PCC Secretaries, talk to (and listen to!) any of the members of the PCC, (including Hilary) who, it should be noted, are bound by their membership to respond on behalf of the whole PCC and stand by the corporate decisions whether they proposed or agreed with them or not.

Ely 2025 Meeting with + Stephen

The Bishop spoke to Deanery parish representatives in very broad terms along the lines previously presented. The current initiative is for the flourishing of parish ministry in all our parishes and to that end we are asked to look at what we can do better together and what we need to help us to do so. There was fruitful discussion, as parishes were encouraged to talk to one another, on what the current 'live' issues are for each and how these are being tackled. Support for parishes in routine administration, particularly that required by the Diocese, was one live issue. We learned that our Diocese is better placed than many in terms of finance, so there is no intention of reducing numbers in the Ely Diocese, as is being done elsewhere. However, as populations increase in our area with large new housing developments the 'real' availability of clergy will decrease. We are asked to think about how we can work in this new reality, considering the ways in which we can contribute to the common good and share resources rather than fighting for what we perceive is due to us.

Lent 2022

The study based on The Greatest Showman ended with reflection on 'Redemption' and a session entitled, like the whole course, 'From now on'. In what way has this Lent enabled you to change for the better 'from now on?'.

Opening of Gamlingay Church

There will be more details after Thursday's site meeting, but it seems that, due to some extra work required, hand-over of the building will not take place in Easter week as originally hoped. We still hope to be back in during May and to be celebrating on May 21st. More about this next week.

Easter Preparations

Our main Benefice church-based service on Easter Day will be at Everton as Gamlingay Church will not be open in time for Easter. There is an open invitation to anyone who would like to decorate church to join in with either Hatley or Everton arrangers - in Hatley please contact Penny Hewlett directly or via Hilary, in Everton please contact Jane Butcher. There will be Easter gardens at all three churches.



Gamlingay's will be outside - contact Hilary or Sandra to be involved there or people as above for the other two churches.

In Gamlingay the Hub is our base for a family-based celebration including baptism of Esme Dickerson. We shall be decorating for Easter there too but it will obviously all have to be moved afterwards. Gamlingay's Easter candle will be based there for the morning.

The Guild of St. Mary

NB : Guild meetings are usually held in Gamlingay Church Hall at 730pm on the third Monday of each month. This means that the April meeting would fall on Easter Monday. We will, therefore, for this month only be meeting on the fourth Monday which is the 25th.



We will be having a talk by Gillian McClure about writing and illustrating picture books. As always, visitors would be welcome and would be asked to pay £4 a head which also covers refreshments and a raffle.

At this meeting members are being asked to pay their annual subscriptions in addition to the usual attendance fee. There will be separate notification about this.

Services for the rest of April

There is NO Wednesday (midweek) communion in Holy Week, nor in the week after Easter. Efforts are being made to provide home communion to all who would like it, please contact Hilary or Valerie. Negotiations have been opened with Potton View Care Home - any outcome will be advised separately.

Sunday 10th, Palm Sunday - Holy Week Begins

10am Liturgy of the Palms and procession (possibly with a real donkey!) Gamlingay
11.15am Liturgy of the Passion with Holy Communion at Everton

Monday 11th - Wednesday 13th Taize-style reflections

7pm St Mary's Church Hall on Monday
Hatley St George Church on Tuesday
Everton Church on Wednesday

Maundy Thursday 14th

7.30pm Maundy Thursday liturgy with washing of feet, communion and stripping of altars.
Vigil continues until midnight please sign up for Watch hours 8pm - 12pm
At Everton.

Good Friday 15th

12noon -2pm Reflections on the Way of the Cross
2pm Communion from reserved Sacrament, Everton
Hatley St George and St Mary's Everton churches open all day outside this time with worship material available

Holy Saturday 16th

Churches decorated for Easter during the day
7.30pm Service of Light, renewal of Baptismal Vows, new Easter candles, at Everton

Sunday April 17th Easter Day - with Easter egg hunts at Gamlingay and Everton.

8.am BCP Communion for Easter at Hatley St George
9.30am Family Easter service at Gamlingay Ecohub with baptism of Esme Dickerson
11.15 am Benefice Easter Communion at Everton

Sunday 24th April

First after (Second of) Easter - change of previous published service

10.30am Benefice Communion at Everton
6pm Deanery service of Evensong and Farewell to Venerable Hugh McCurdy, retiring Archdeacon of Huntingdon at Little Paxton Deanery 'mother church'.

New Communications and Fundraising Task Group



I have been asked to lead this group with the aim of organising fundraising activities and celebrations for the church in Gamlingay. Co-ordination with the other churches in the Benefice will also be key with regards to dates etc.

Ideas for fundraising activities from within and without the church family would be most welcome. If you have an idea, please let me know. If you want to organise an event outside the group in support of church that would be brilliant! A chat about what and when would be welcome to avoid clashes etc.

Volunteers to help with events would also be most welcome!

You don't have to join the task group but if you're interested, please get in touch. Many thanks!

Jane Orchiston

My mobile number is 0753 500 5908. (Sorry, we don't have a landline)
Email is: janeorch@hotmail.com

Chat Group

The Chat Group meets this coming Wednesday morning, 13th April, at 2 Charnocks Close. If anyone is interested in joining this group, please speak to Chris Miller or Brenda Elcome.

Provisional plans for May....

Sunday 1st May, 3rd Sunday of Easter (First Sunday of the month)

9.30am Parish Eucharist at Hatley St George (or Gamlingay)

11.15am Parish Communion at Everton

Sunday 8th May, 4th Sunday of Easter (Second Sunday of the month)

9.30am Eucharist at Gamlingay Church (possibly first back in church)

11.15am Parish Communion at Everton

Monday 9th May – First shared meeting of the new benefice PCC's.

Sunday 15th May, 5th Sunday of Easter (third Sunday of the month)

9.30am Eucharist at Gamlingay

11.15am Eucharist at Everton

Saturday 21st May, 12 noon onwards

Celebration of Completion of the work on Gamlingay Church -

Refreshments, prayers and displays with opportunity to meet and thank one another.

22nd May, 6th Sunday of Easter (fourth Sunday of the month)

10.00am Benefice Communion service at Gamlingay

2.30pm Baptism at Gamlingay

4pm Evensong at Everton

A reminder of church opening times and some key contact details:

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

Hatley church can be opened on request.

Gamlingay church closed to the public until May.

Hilary Young , Parish Priest	hilaryafyoung@gmail.com	650587
Chris Miller , LLM/Reader	cfm55@btinternet.com	650779
Nick Ingles , Gamlingay/Hatley Treasurer	nickingles@me.com	07868 144830
Valerie Miller , Pastoral	vjm55@btinternet.com	650779
Sandra Macrow , LLM Children and Families' minister	sandramacrow@btinternet.com	07958 710703
Dawn Martin , Gamlingay/Hatley PCC Secretary	dawnbeckymartin@aol.com	652832
Alec Hissett	alechissett@hotmail.com	650052

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