

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



Weekly newsletter 2 April 2021



From Hilary:



My prayers are with all of you/us, the Church in this place, as we come again to the great festival of our faith. I pray that the deep meaning of Easter brings joy and peace to you and yours. The warmer weather this week combined with releasing of restrictions on meeting outside has brought hope and lightened the mood for many of us, and that fits well with the season's theme of resurrection and new life. But the first Easter was a fairly confusing and low-key affair, and it was only as time passed and encounters with the risen Christ multiplied, that the magnitude of what had happened began to dawn, and it was not until the Holy Spirit was experienced that the Church came into being. Several weeks of Easter

celebrations begin this Sunday, until we have Ascension and Pentecost to celebrate.

Thank you to everyone who has worked to make our celebrations fitting in these challenging times: cleaning and decorating churches, preparing and attending worship, helping to keep the church family informed - in all these things are pleasing to God when offered in love, thank you all!

Tommy Hood's funeral took place at Gamlingay under Covid rules, some of his friends were able to be nearby in the spring sunshine though not in the church itself, our love and prayers continue with Norma and family as we remember one of nature's gentlemen with respect and thanksgiving, and in confidence that he is home with his maker. The service for Tommy was recorded, and though the quality is not great, that can be made available on request. [Click here for the eulogy read at Tommy's funeral.](#)

Services after Easter : It has not been possible to gather the necessary people to discuss a timetable for the opening up of services. The advice remains restrictive, but there will be in-person worship possible, continuing on a Benefice basis, until at least May.

Churches Opening times in Easter Week:

Everton church will be open Bank Holiday Monday and Friday-Sunday.

Hatley church can be opened on request and will be on Sunday – Easter Day.

Gamlingay church will be open daily from 9am – 5pm.

All 3 churches will be decorated on Easter Saturday, please check locally to take part.

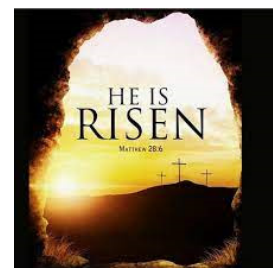
Any Easter gardens or Easter bonnets from the families' challenge can be brought and left on display, the challenge is being judged on Monday, so pictures need to be in by then.



Good Friday all churches will be open with reflection space and personal liturgy available
12noon-2pm Way of the Cross music and words (Gamlingay and Zoom), leading to.....
2-3pm Final hour Good Friday service - veneration of the cross, communion from reserve sacrament - on Zoom and in person by arrangement - contact Hilary

Holy Saturday Churches will be being decorated throughout the day by arrangement
8pm Easter Vigil/new fire and renewal of Baptismal Vows - Gamlingay Church on Zoom

Easter Day Easter Communion in person in all Benefice churches, under Covid rules
8am Hatley St George said service BCP
9.30am Gamlingay All age Eucharist with admission to Holy Communion (also on Zoom)
11.15am Everton Communion (possibly also on Facebook Live)



Next week:

Sunday April 11th Easter 2 ('low Sunday')
9.30 am Benefice Eucharist at Gamlingay
11.30am Baptism of Persephone Hay at Everton

Wednesday 14th
9.30 am Midweek Communion at Gamlingay zoom and in person

Looking Further Ahead:

Sunday 18th April at 11.30am Everton Cum Tetworth APCM (Zoom)
Wednesday June 9th - New Wardens induction (zoom)

THANK YOU!

A huge thank you to those who came along to Gamlingay church last Friday and Saturday to help with the Spring cleaning. We are particularly grateful to Ben Jones (and his accompanying Grandfather!) who came on Friday to climb and wield the long-handled brushes clearing much of the high-level dirt and debris – not to mention the festoons of undisturbed cobwebs!



Many of us are looking forward to being able to attend church properly over Easter and owe much to those who have ensured that it is looking as welcoming as possible.

Ros Hissett

Families Celebrating Easter in Gamlingay

The Easter Trail has been available from Saturday 27th March. Starting at Gamlingay Baptist Church there is a map of the trail and the first "egg". Each egg shares a new section of the Easter story. Pictures welcome!

Easter competition - Easter Garden and/or Easter Bonnet

Your Easter garden has to include :- something representing the 3 crosses -- something representing the tomb - something colourful! You can be as creative as you like!

Community quiz organised by Gamlingay Baptist Church

Anyone and everyone is welcome and there will be a complete mixture of questions. This is on April 9th on ZOOM at 6.45pm for a 7.00pm start. To sign up follow this link;

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/TKFZLHD>

If you would like to submit & lead a round of questions please get in touch with Abi at GBC

Essie's essentials

Ashleigh Dickerson is selling raffle tickets to raise money for her initiative to provide baby essentials to families in need. The draw is on Easter Sunday, do contact Ashleigh to donate, either directly or you can do so though Hilary, but ideally through the Just Giving Crowd Funding page

https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/essiesessentials?utm_term=5xkXYzRbk

Pastoral News and Prayer

Friends and church family are particularly in our thoughts and prayers at this time. I have been asked about one or two people being 'dropped' from mention in our weekly prayers, so it may be worth explaining our policy. Anyone can ask for a name to be added to our prayer list **with the permission of the person in question**, although sometimes Christian names only may be used for people who can't be asked directly. Names are kept for a month unless a change is requested and will then not be listed again unless a further request is received. There are often people who cannot attend church any more but who do not have 'crisis' needs. These people are not prayed for on the weekly intercessions list but are still in the thoughts and prayers of those who know them. News of them is welcome, and can be published, **with their permission**.

Terence (Terry) Read - who is in a care home in Sandy, has given me permission to let his friends know how he is doing. He says he is being well looked after and, now the rules have relaxed to allow it, has been delighted to receive communion and will be receiving it again. He remembers some of us and thought he had been told of Tommy Hood's passing by people in the Home. He was grateful for the flowers taken by Dorothy Oglesby on behalf of the church.



Tommy Hood : 9 October 1923 – 5 March 2021

(by Chris Miller)

On Wednesday we finally said goodbye to Tommy Hood who died on 5 March at the grand age of 97 years. Herewith part of the eulogy which I delivered which was written by members of the family.

Tommy was born on 9 October 1923 and when he was 9 years old the family moved to Holbeins Farm at East Hatley. Tommy attended the single classroom school in E Hatley until he was 11 when he went to Gamlingay school. In his final year at school, aged 14, Tommy was head boy and had hopes to attend Cambridge Technical College but when he asked the Headmaster for a reference he was told “You are a farmer’s son, you don’t need an education.” So he worked for a while at The Bridge Hotel in St Neots, owned by his Grandad Hood, then at Bassingbourn RAF Station for Kerridges, a building maintenance company, as tea boy, store keeper and then wages clerk for 4 years while also doing a Quantity Surveyor correspondence course.

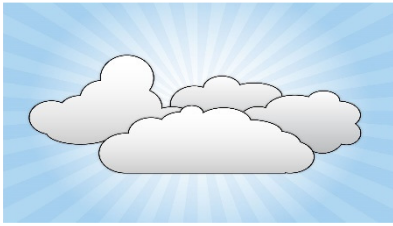
Aged 18, Tommy was called up to the 34th Signal Regiment of the Royal Artillery at Bamber Bridge. In June 1945, at the end of the war, a few celebratory drinks in a local tavern resulted in Tommy catching diphtheria and becoming very ill and semi-paralysed. He was 6 months in hospital in Naples before eventually being sent home on a hospital ship. A very long train journey from Southampton delivered him, not to Cambridge or Bedford hospital which he had requested, but Pindersfield Hospital, Wakefield where the following morning he met his “darling Norma”. When she asked him if he could make coffee for the nurses, he quickly replied: “Yes I can!!” After a long chat, they fixed a date to go to the cinema. Only 3 days later Tommy was sent to a military ward in Bedford to recuperate. As his dad was suddenly taken seriously ill, Tommy was given compassionate discharge and he went home to help out on the farm. Norma and Tommy wrote to each other regularly and met up every 6 weeks or so for the next couple of years until they married on 29 March 1948 in Burleigh church with a wedding breakfast at the Odeon cinema drawing room and a honeymoon in Jersey at the upmarket Brelards Bay hotel.

Tommy’s dad died in the early fifties and the family came to live at Holbeins Farm. Tommy was involved with various community activities around Hatley. Memorable festivities included Carol Singing around the village; Tommy loved to sing and once performed an amazing take-off of P J Proby for a charity event in the new Village Hall. The village bonfires at the farm with George letting off the fireworks, and supping Tommy’s pea soup were always popular. Although, due to injury, he no longer played football, Tommy enjoyed playing for the Hatley cricket team and, whether at home or away, this was often a family event with a picnic. When the old church in East Hatley could no longer be insured he was supportive in building a new church which became part of the Shingay Group of churches until, eventually, Hatley came under Gamlingay’s pastoral care. Tommy was appointed as School Governor for the new Gamlingay Village College, and other voluntary roles included Chairman of the Scout Group and President of Gamlingay Young Farmers Club. He also took on the role of County Chairman for the National Farmers Union. In 1980 he was delighted to receive an invitation to the Queen’s Garden Party.

As Tommy reached his 60s, and with the farm proving to be too small to sustain a living for all the families, the Hoods sold their portion of the farm to the Days. Tommy and Norma moved to a bungalow in Great Gransden, and also purchased a Spanish holiday home for the start of their retirement. For most of those 30-plus years of retirement Tommy enjoyed playing golf at the John O’Gaunt Club in summer and various Spanish courses through wintertime. He joined U3A in Spain, taking part in Discussion Groups and Music and Art Appreciation Groups; he made a great number of good friends there from various parts of Europe. Later they moved to Gamlingay where he enjoyed bridge evenings, singing with the Community Choir, Over-60s lunches, and chats with passers-by as he tended the garden. He regularly attended coffee mornings at the new and conveniently located EcoHub. Tommy really appreciated his friends and helpers, especially in the last few months. Tommy was an incredibly hard working man but he was also someone you would go to for sound advice or if you needed help. He loved socialising with friends but Tommy’s priority was his family, and most especially his “darling Norma”.

So, Tommy’s time on earth was up. At the funeral we heard the famous reading from Ecclesiastes 3: “there is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens”. Tommy certainly would have known that being a farmer. And, of course,,: a time to be born and a time to die. It’s one of those certainties in life, that death, one day will come to all of us. And now was Tommy’s time. May he rest in peace.

SILVER LININGS?



We have now been producing weekly copies of this newsletter (with the exception of Christmas week) for almost a year and, by my reckoning, we will be circulating the 50th copy on 23rd April. The last year has, of course, been stressful for all as well as traumatic and even tragic for many but, as Gill Spaul reminded us in her lovely poem a few weeks ago, every cloud has a silver lining – or so they say!

How about sharing and celebrating our 'silver linings' for the 50th newsletter? What, for you, has been a positive aspect of living through the pandemic? Maybe you have found a new hobby, made new friends, learned new skills or found enjoyment in those little things you never usually have time for. Perhaps you have appreciated the kindness of others when you have needed help. Let's share all our positive memories of the last 12 months and make our 50th newsletter as uplifting as possible.

Just send me a sentence or two and I will include as many as possible in the 50th letter and, if there are too many (I'm ever hopeful!), they can feature over the following couple of weeks taking us up to our birthday!

Looking forward to hearing from you....

Brenda

A reminder of some key contact details:

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Chris Miller , LLM/Reader, Gamlingay/Hatley Churchwarden	cfm55@btinternet.com	650779
Nick Ingles , Gamlingay/Hatley Churchwarden elect	nickingles@me.com	07828 934003
Valerie Miller , ALM Pastoral	vjm55@btinternet.com	650779
Sandra Macrow , LLM Children and Families' minister	sandramacrow@btinternet.com	07958 710703
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Eileen Thorpe , Gamlingay/Hatley PCC Treasurer	Eileen.thorpe@hotmail.co.uk	651197
Jane Gurney , Everton Churchwarden		
Jane Butcher , Everton Assistant Churchwarden	jane.butcher59@googlemail.com	680105

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