

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



Weekly newsletter 28 July 2023



From Hilary:

Schools have finished and we are into the high holiday season. Our thoughts and prayers are with those who care for and support our young people during vacation time.

I have been much engaged recently in discussions about churchyards, their use and care. Circumstances vary considerably around the parishes as to the issues and who they affect so I thought this might be an opportunity to share some information. It turns out that one person's wildflowers are another person's uncared-for mess. I am proud that our PCCs continue to work to care for the environment and wildlife in all our churches and I encourage anyone who hears complaints to send them my way, as these are usually the result of not understanding the issues and can sometimes be turned round to support, once people 'get' what is being done and why.

In Gamlingay the parish church (parish priest and PCC) has no responsibility for any current burial sites - the two cemeteries are owned and administered by the Parish Council. As many will know, the churchyard around St Mary the Virgin has been 'closed' which means that no more burials can take place, and although the church retains ecclesiastical responsibility (so remains responsible and subject to faculty regulations for what happens) the Council has practical and financial responsibility for maintenance. The current work in progress, which is to have Gamlingay churchyard managed in a wildlife and planet-friendly way, has been chosen by the PCC as part of our collective human responsibility to reduce carbon emissions. The PCC has, as part of this, chosen to apply for an award for this work. Alec Hissett has taken on the lead role for the church and will report on what it entails, and the progress being made. Leaving grass to grow until hay time and cutting and completely removing the remains, as well as having a compost heap, are two elements that the tidy-minded might not enjoy. Negotiations are ongoing with the Council to integrate their mowing contracts with the plan, which is to maintain the churchyard appropriately for both wildlife and community. The recent scything course has resulted in a part-cut, and three or four people are now trained and tooled up to hand mow. More work is planned - Hilary and Alec would love to hear from anyone wanting to join the action team.

In Everton the old churchyard is still open for burials, nearly full but with the new extension available and likely soon to be needed again after its first use a few years ago. Both areas are the responsibility of the PCC. The old churchyard is already a designated wildflower area and has been so for several years. As such it has been subject to a mowing regime to preserve the flower habitat. Through lockdown and since then, plans have not been adhered to fully due to a lack of personnel, though with much gratitude to those who have done their best to keep some semblance of tidiness. This last year people who visit graves of relatives have become very dissatisfied with how overgrown the area has become, and a new energy is there to keep the place tidy (see below). This is much appreciated but needs coordinating to maintain the wildflowers. An action team is being gathered, coordinated by Hilary and Jane Butcher. The PCC has agreed to look at applying for the same award as Gamlingay and has the active commitment of the local school to share in the management of the area for wildlife.

At Hatley St George the (open) churchyard has no burial records and is generously maintained by the goodwill and efforts of the Aster Estate. Most of the churchyard is close mown, but an area behind the church is managed for wildflowers, and the churchyard has wild areas around the edges, including water, and could easily qualify for the award the parish churches are seeking if applied for.

East Hatley St Denis Churchyard is an odd anomaly in church terms, in being open for burials and therefore the responsibility of Gamlingay with the Hatleys PCC, but a council-designated wildlife reserve surrounding a redundant church in the care of the Friends of Friendless Churches. A group of dedicated and knowledgeable volunteers keeps connection with the PCC through Hilary, Nicola Jenkins being a leader in this work. The churchyard is managed for wildflowers and public access and amenity.

NEWS FROM GAMLINGAY

Cream Teas this last Sunday sold out and were delicious. Well done and thank you to the teamakers and everyone who came and supported us financially. (*See message from Jane Orchiston below*)

Memory Lane group had a wonderful session with Annie and Mike leading the Tea Dance. There were very few experienced dancers, but Annie and Mike showed us their skill, Josie and David joined them, and most of us had a go enjoying a lively session of music, movement and laughter, as well as a good tea. There was some waltzing, a barn dance, Norma led a Conga and many of us did a couple of lines of the Hokey Cokey to finish. We all enjoyed it so much and we shall be inviting Annie and Mike back for another session, possibly at Christmas.

Simple Lunch – we learned that this doesn't work on the same day as Memory Lane. Hilary and Jane Orchiston were the only ones there, but Valerie's delicious soup was enjoyed, and food prepared for the tea dance, so nothing was wasted. The August sessions will be Tuesdays 8th and 28th, and although everyone is welcome, special effort will be made to make those with memory loss and their carers comfortable.

NEWS FROM EVERTON

The Churchyard Work Party on Saturday made good inroads into the necessary work. Special thanks to Jane Butcher and the people who came to help to make a big difference in less-than-ideal weather conditions. As explained above, there is a lot more to do, particularly to regain the wildflower management programme - which means a lot of raking of cut grass.

Everton Community Group Coffee morning takes place next Saturday morning - help and customers welcome!

Service information and dates

Sunday 30th July Trinity 8 (not the Benefice Service which was swapped to July 16th)

9.30am Parish Eucharist at Gamlingay
11.15am Parish Eucharist at Everton

August Services

(NB: no Hatley services this month)

Sunday 6th August, The Feast of the Transfiguration

9.30am Parish Eucharist at Gamlingay.
11.15am Parish Eucharist at Everton.

Sunday 13th August, Trinity 10

9.30am Parish Eucharist at Gamlingay.
11.15am Parish Eucharist at Everton.

Sunday 20th August, Trinity 11

9.30am Parish Eucharist at Gamlingay
11.15am Parish Eucharist at Everton

Sunday 27th August, Trinity 12

9.30am Parish Eucharist at Gamlingay
11.15am Parish Eucharist at Everton

9.30am Midweek
Eucharist at Gamlingay
will continue
throughout the summer
months

From Jane Orchiston

Thank you to everyone who supported last Sunday's Cream Tea in Gamlingay Church Hall – scone makers – shoppers – helpers – and the all-important consumers! There was, in the end, a really good turnout and as well as being a highly enjoyable afternoon there was a welcome profit of £230 for church funds.



Hopefully the '**Sociable Summer**' activities throughout July and August will add a further boost to our financial resources. Don't forget to let Brenda know what you are planning and if you need any of the official church invitations.

Contact details below show who to contact in each parish:

Hilary Young , Parish Priest	hilaryafyoung@gmail.com	650587
Lucy McKeown , Retired Assistant Priest	lucy@mckeown.garden	304487
Chris Miller , LLM/Reader	cfm55@btinternet.com	650779
Nick Ingles , Gamlingay/Hatley Treasurer	nickingles@me.com	07868 144830
Richard Astell , Everton Treasurer	richard@astell.co.uk	
Valerie Miller , Pastoral	vjm55@btinternet.com	650779
Sandra Macrow , LLM Children and Families' minister	sandramacrow@btinternet.com	07958 710703
Ann Davis , Gamlingay/Hatley PCC Secretary	anngamlingay@aol.com	
Alec Hissett	alechissett@hotmail.com	650052
Jane Butcher , Everton contact	Janebutcher59@googlemail.com	

This Newsletter is circulated by email each week to all on the Church Electoral Roll plus anyone else who gives their email details and requests it. It contains any news we have been given to share in our villages (Everton, Gamlingay and the Hatleys) plus news of what's going on in all three churches in the two parishes of the Benefice. Gamlingay with the Hatleys is one parish while Everton and Tetworth is the second linked parish in the current Benefice - both looked after by one parish priest.

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

*A reminder that if you are temporarily or permanently unable to attend church services and would like to receive communion in your own home, please let us know.
For Gamlingay and Hatley contact Hilary or Valerie.
For Everton contact Hilary.*