

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



Weekly newsletter 15 September 2023



From Hilary:

This week has been rather full with the PCC meetings and all that goes with them, as well as fitting in the climate talk at the Cathedral alongside routine parish work. Next week Norman and I are on leave in the middle of the week, this falling in the time Revd Lucy is taking services, but there will still be a Newsletter all being well.

This week I have been struck by the challenge humanity faces, on all levels, of working in harmony in any coordinated way, even for a good that is widely accepted. Added to this is the sometimes seemingly willful failure of people to agree on what actually is good, and a despair for the future which is one obvious reaction I've heard expressed a few times recently. However, 'faith hope and love, these three abide', says St Paul, with love being the greatest. Love is the answer we are challenged to receive and give. It is love that will enable us to be hopeful in living out our faith amidst the challenges of disharmony together with the potential and actual disasters that we face.

See below for points to note from Everton PCC, with Gamlingay to follow next week.

With respect to climate change, I wonder if you are getting a bit fed up and overwhelmed with the number of ways in which we are being shown how things are going wrong? I was teaching about the connection between scientific knowledge and policy 30 years ago with the Open University. The changes in the earth's climate which we now feel were all predicted then in the course 'Science Matters' where climate change evidence was put alongside the evidence for the effects of inhaling cigarette smoke on the human body and the damage caused by lead in petrol and in paint. The course looked at the ways decisions are made in response to the adverse effect of any of our actions. As you would expect, a number of factors affect what is done and when. Availability and believability of information and how public opinion receives these; how easy and costly it is to effect change and the degree to which there are vested interests, all play a part. The facts themselves form a small part, perhaps unfortunately. I can't find who said 'people don't think, they have reactions', but this is powerfully true. Our emotions and past experiences connected with them colour, and sometimes override, what the facts might indicate in our choice of action (or inaction). Unenlightened self-interest is the enemy of concerted action. People often believe what they want to, or have believed in the past, despite the truth being otherwise.

Julia King's talk on '**Net Zero, Critical but not enough**' was well informed, accessible and both challenging and hopeful. Julia knows much about policy-making and high-level plans and actions around mitigating human-originated atmospheric changes. She has no political or business axe to grind but is practical about which influences people will respond to and under what circumstances. It was fascinating to put her talk alongside the Open University topic of my past and listen to her 'take' on human choices, which the context of her talk encouraged us to put alongside the things of faith. Julia pointed out that we need not only to reduce further changes, but also to deal with the ones that are already going to happen. Sea levels will rise further, significant changes have already taken place and will continue to affect what will grow where in the UK as well as across the rest of the world wherever catastrophic flooding can happen. Julia is not a practicing Christian, but she respects the potential influence the churches have on the way people react and therefore behave. Our faith is that God is at work in the world, both in and outside the Church, and that people are made in God's image 'to reflect God's truth and light'.

We must not fall off the path that leads to God either on the side of hard-hearted religiosity that sees all in a very limited definition of black and white, or on the other side that is afraid to define anything as black or white. Both of these attitudes, for different reasons, result in inaction relating to climate change. Either God meant all this to happen, and faithless humanity will be punished (while the faithful are saved) or it is too hard to know what is worth doing and in any case it's the larger forces at work which we do not control that will determine our future. The truth lies in the middle ground. Life contains all shades from black to white, it is not that black and white do not exist, but that much of the middle ground is difficult to assign to either absolute. But life is to be discerned in a glorious range of colours too, when lived in God's love - we have a choice about where we look, but not about what is actually there.

'Lord give me the courage to change the things I can change, the grace to accept the things I cannot change, and the wisdom to know the difference'.

So here is my take on climate change and climate action:

Humanity has, largely unwittingly, for several centuries had a significant effect on the atmosphere of the earth, which has resulted in an increased warming effect. The process has continued knowingly, or in denial of the likely consequences, at an increased pace which, in the last few decades, we have become more aware of. The annual variations of weather and climate we are used to cannot intelligently be used to explain away what is happening. Humanity has the capacity to mitigate what is happening and to adapt to the effects that are already here, but we do not have as much influence over the forces of nature as some would like to think. We do not know everything, and there are events that could override anything we might do now. But it is our God-given duty to take care of one another by doing what any of us individually, and all of us collectively can to counter the effects of human greed and self-indulgence at the expense of others. What little I can do may not make a big difference, but I will do it anyway, for the sake of Jesus whose whole ministry, looked at in one way, was a failure, yet who conquered death by obedience to personal suffering. What might that be? That's for next time.

NB: On Saturday 30th September Sandra and Hilary will be attending a service at the Cathedral for the admission and licensing of LLMs. Anyone who would like to join them would be very welcome. Please contact Hilary for further information.

NEWS FROM EVERTON

Harvest Service and Gift Day will take place on 1st October. The service is agreed to be a 4pm celebration in words and music. The Gift Day letter will be out next week.

There is no capacity for a Harvest Supper this year but I (Hilary) have committed to looking at another opportunity for shared hospitality that doesn't detract from the Coffee Morning planned for the first Saturday in December.

The PCC are working on a plan which includes coordinating local volunteers to care for the churchyard, fitting with the churchyard status as a County Wildlife Site. Attention to trees and paths is included in planning.

Finances and the future of the parish within the Deanery plan are ongoing concerns.

Guild of St. Mary

Our next Guild meeting is on Monday 18th September, 7:30pm in the Church Hall. We are welcoming Alison Giles from The Whipple Museum who will be talking about Scientific Women. This is an **open meeting for all** – visitors welcome. Usual charges apply - £3 per member, £5 per visitor which includes tea, coffee and raffle ticket.



NEWS FROM GAMLINGAY

Well done Sandra for preaching on Sunday last.

Memory Lane, meeting this next time on 26th September, will be a games and social time. Do encourage anyone you know who might benefit to come along. Some people need an encouraging companion to get to something they would enjoy if they went but can't get themselves to unaided.

Well done 'Sociable Summer' contributors. The funds raised are important in facing our financial challenges this year.

Update from Anne and John Smith cycling the Pennine Way on their tandem. Please support them in helping find sponsors in aid of St Mary's. If you use Face Book, do share their 'just giving' link. (See their message and pictures below)

A reminder that Simple Lunches will start again in October. All being well, the first is planned for 3rd October.

Roderick has passed on a **(paid) job opportunity at the Post Office** - paper deliverers are urgently sought for early morning deliveries. It is apparently difficult for young people to do this task as papers are not arriving from the suppliers early enough to allow school pupils to do this task before catching their buses. Anyone interested should speak to Roderick or contact the Post Office. (Fund raising opportunity for anyone normally up early and out for a walk?)

Village Show

Don't forget to visit St. Mary's Tea Room at the Village Show on Saturday afternoon!

If you have promised a cake (or even if you haven't!) we look forward to receiving it during the morning and if you can help in any way on the day with serving, setting up, transporting equipment and clearing up afterwards please contact Jane and let her know.

janeorch@hotmail.com) Tel: 07535005908

Harvest Supper

There is now a sign-up sheet in church for attendance at the Gamlingay Harvest Supper to be held on Friday 29th September in the Church Hall. The menu will consist of cold meats, baked potato and salad, followed by apple pie with cream/custard, tea/coffee. The cost will be £10 a head - please bring your own drink to go with the meal.

If you are unable to sign up in church, please contact Ros Hissett to book your place.

roshissett@hotmail.com Tel: 650002

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

Service information and dates

Sunday 17th September

9.30am Parish Eucharist at Gamlingay
4.00pm Evensong at Everton

Sunday 24th September

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

Friday 29th September Gamlingay Harvest Supper, Church Hall

Saturday 30th September

2.30pm Ely Cathedral – Admission and Licensing of LLMs

NB: Midweek communion will take place at 9.30am on Wednesdays throughout September unless a cancellation is advertised.

October Services

Sunday 1st October, Harvest Festivals

9.30am Gamlingay Parish Eucharist
11.15am Hatley St George Harvest Celebration
4pm Harvest Thanksgiving words and music at Everton

Wednesday 4th October

9.30am Midweek Eucharist at Gamlingay

Sunday 8th October, Trinity 18

9.30am Gamlingay Parish Eucharist
11.15am Everton Parish Eucharist

Wednesday 11th October

9.30am Midweek Eucharist at Gamlingay

Sunday 15th October, Trinity 19

9.30am Gamlingay Eucharistic service of Wholeness and Healing
11am-3pm Harvest and Community Sustainable Food celebration at GBC
4pm Evensong at Everton

Wednesday 18th October

9.30am Midweek Eucharist at Gamlingay

Sunday 22nd October, Trinity 18

9.30am Gamlingay Parish Eucharist
11.15am Everton Parish Eucharist

Wednesday 25th October

9.30am Midweek Eucharist at Gamlingay

Sunday 29th October, last after Trinity - Bible Sunday/Dedication festival (if not on Oct 1st)

10am Benefice Eucharist at Everton

Tuesday 31st October, Light party and children's light service in Gamlingay

Wednesday 1st November

9.30am Midweek Eucharist at Gamlingay

NB : All Saints is to be celebrated on Sunday 5th November.

Pennine Way Sponsored Cycle Trip – Update!

Hello from Hebden Bridge!

We are about to start Day 3. So far so good although the terrain has at times been testing for tandems particularly as we are loaded up.

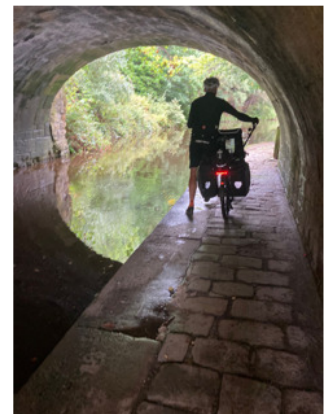


Buxton

We have enjoyed one long section along the Tissington Trail (a disused railway line) and also a long stretch on the Rochdale Canal towpath. They have set up a JustGiving page for donations:

www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/john-Anne-smith-754?utm_term=5eGP29b8k

Anne and John



Rochdale Canal