

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

23rd April 2017

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THE PARISH OF GAMLINGAY WITH HATLEY ST GEORGE AND EAST HATLEY

Agenda for Vestry Meeting
Sunday 23rd April 2017

Election of Churchwardens and Deputy Churchwardens

Agenda for Annual Parochial Church Meeting
Sunday 23rd April 2017

Opening Prayers

Apologies for Absence

Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting of 24th April 2016

Matters Arising

Electoral Roll

Annual Report and Chairman's Report

Treasurer's Report

Churchwardens' Report

Deanery Synod

The Hatleys

Committee Reports

Ratifying Appointments of Children's Advocate, Safeguarding Officer, LLM to PCC

PCC members' terms of office

Elections: Independent Financial Examiner, PCC and Sidespersons

Vacancy update

Other Reports

Any Other Business

Closing Prayers

THE PARISH OF GAMLINGAY WITH HATLEY ST GEORGE AND EAST HATLEY

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING 24th APRIL 2016

Present : Revd. S Rothwell in the chair, Mr. I Parker, Mrs M Sharpe, Ms. S Witchett, Mrs. M Marsh, Mrs G Brunt, Mrs A Bunker, Mrs P Young, Mrs. S Thorne, Mr P Gorton, Mrs R Gorton, Mr D Elcome, Mrs B Elcome, Mrs P Pearson, Mr. J Welton, Mr J Boocock, Miss B Loudon, Mr C Miller, Mrs V Miller, Mr P Loudon, Mrs A Loudon, Mrs J Cooper, Mr R Starksfield, Mr A Hissett, Mrs. R Hissett.

**Apologies for
Absence :** Mrs P Offord, Mrs P Hewlett, Mr and Mrs Wareham, Mrs H Watkin, Mrs N. Welton, Revd. E Rothwell, Mrs D Pearce, Mrs J York, Mrs A Clarke, Mr and Mrs. Smalls, Mr A Smith, Mr and Mrs A Jackson.

Vestry Meeting : The minutes of the 2015 Vestry Meeting were accepted unanimously with no amendments and no abstentions.

The Rector thanked the retiring Churchwardens for their service in the past year and previous years. He stressed the importance of the role of churchwarden in the coming interregnum and also that of the representation of the parish at deanery and diocesan levels.

Nominated :

Mr. C Miller Nominated by Mr I Parker Seconded by Mrs A Bunker
Mrs. J Cooper “ “ Mrs M Marsh “ “ Mr J Boocock

Both were duly elected by unanimous vote. There were no abstentions. The normal term of office for churchwardens is six years, re-elected annually. However due to the role of LLM and the nature of the post this coming year with the negotiations for a new priest, Mr. Miller will review his position at the end of the year.

As back-up for the Wardens, Mr M Wareham and Mr J Welton have been appointed as Deputy Wardens and Mrs Miller as Assistant Warden. Mrs Pearson will continue in her role as Deputy Church Warden, The Hatleys. Mr. Hissett and Mrs Elcome have agreed to remain on the PCC with Mr. Hissett named person to liaise with Mr Boocock, Chair of the Task Force and Buildings Committee. It is not necessary to vote on these appointments but they appeared to be met by the approval of those present.

Prayers : Opening prayers were led by Revd. S Rothwell.

Minutes : Minutes of the Annual Meeting held 22nd March 2015 were signed by Revd. Rothwell as a correct record with no amendments and no abstentions.

Matters Arising : There were no matters arising.

Electoral Roll : The electoral roll report was received. The current number on Roll is 87. Thanks were expressed to Mrs. R Hissett for undertaking this role.

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Annual Report : The Annual Report for 2015 was received and adopted. Thanks were expressed to Mrs Sharpe for collating the report.

Chairman's Report : See MAP

Treasurer's Report : Mr. Parker gave a very clear and concise presentation with coloured graphs for which thanks were expressed.

Mr. Smalls has undertaken the role of Independent Examiner for several years now but is unable to continue due to ill health. Thanks are expressed for his support. This was echoed in a formal vote of thanks. Mr. Barry Jefferd (of Geroge Haye and Co, Accountants) has very kindly stepped in to examine the accounts at short notice. The accounts were signed off.

The Accounts were accepted unanimously by vote. There were no abstentions.

Thanks were given to Mrs Cooper for undertaking the banking of funds. The question was raised as to whether the Parish Share is reduced during an interregnum. It is but this is offset by the cost of visiting priests.

Mrs Marsh called for a vote of thanks for Mr Parker for the clarity of his Report and his hard work during the year.

Churchwardens' Report and Terrier and Inventory :

Report from Mr. Hissett

The Terrier and Inventory has been checked. Nothing new was found to be missing. There have been several minor additions. The Terrier and Inventory was signed by the Rector.

The sign by the gate to the church ground is looking very sorry. A grant application made to the Parish Council was not successful but an application to the Cambridgeshire County Council Community Chest for approximately £1000 will be made. Any personal donations towards the cost of a new sign would be welcome.

Mr. Hissett has been Churchwarden (with a small hiatus) since 2003. He thanked all in the church for their help and support and in particular Mrs Hissett. He gave best wishes to the new Churchwardens.

Report from Mrs. Elcome

Mrs Elcome stated that it had been an honour and a privilege and mostly a pleasure to serve as Churchwarden for seven years. It is the right time for a change of personnel although there will be challenges ahead, not least of which will be the interregnum. However, both she and Mr. Hissett will be available for support whenever it is needed.

She expressed thanks to the Reverend Steve Rothwell and to Mr. Hissett for being so easy to work with and for their tolerance. She thanked the congregation for its support and expertise and in particular thanked her husband "for so many things".

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Vote of thanks : A formal vote of thanks to both the Churchwardens and in particular to their families was expressed. Revd. S Rothwell said how appropriate the words of the Collect for the day were to both Mr. Hissett and Mrs. Elcome and he gave them a small token of gratitude.

Deanery Synod Report :

A brief update of the current status of the Diocesan Strategy was given by the Rector.

He informed the meeting that there would likely be impending changes in the allocation of priests within the Deanery. There will be one and a half full time equivalent posts vacant in the near future.

Committee Reports :

Committee reports are available to be read as hard copy or via email on request or on the website.

Church hall and Cottage : It was suggested that the charge for the hire of the Church Hall should be increased to £9 per hour for regular users to be more in line with other venues in the village. It was pointed out that the charge for the small hall in the Hub is £7.50.

It was also suggested that the Church Hall and Cottage committee should be resurrected. Both of these suggestions will be discussed by the PCC at the next meeting.

Children's Work : Some very good work has been undertaken by Mrs Truett, Mrs Macrow and coordinated by the Revd. E Rothwell. The Stepping Stones Group has been re-named Sparks. The group now meets on the 1st Sunday each month before the Church service.

Special events have taken place and been very successful with excellent feedback from participants and their families. The children have taken part in the family services often with the use of multi-media presentations.

Mrs. Macrow is undertaking training towards ALM ministry in Children's Work. Personal invitation has been the most successful form of recruitment and advertising.

You are kindly requested to support the group and their activities.

Hatleys : Thanks were expressed to the Churchwardens for their help and support in the Hatleys and the warmest welcome extended to the new churchwardens.

The temporary drainage work has recently been completed.

The Quinquennial inspection took place and was very satisfactory. There are a few issues to be dealt with during the next five years but nothing of immediate concern.

The Christmas fundraising at Hatley raised £155 to be donated to the Cambridge Churches Homeless Project. It is hoped that this will be the start of a tradition.

All the requirements for the toilets have been completed and hopefully the toilets will be installed in time for the Hatleys' Fete.

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The Friends of St. Mary's : Some members of The Friends of St. Mary's, notably Mr Gorton and Mr Smalls, have been active fundraisers for 23 years. The Friends desperately need new members to serve on their committee. Mr. Starksfield called for a vote of thanks for the not insubstantial support that the Friends have given to the church over a significant number of years. The vote was unanimous.

Thanks : thanks to be expressed to all the committee members and planning groups for their tireless and usually unseen work but is it a vital part of the active life of the church.

Ratifying Appointments :

Children's Advocate. Mrs. Ann Loudon was again confirmed as the Children's Advocate.

Nominated by Mrs Hissett Seconded by Mrs Miller

The vote was unanimous

Safeguarding Officer. Mr Elcome was also re-confirmed as the Safeguarding Officer. He has a supply of Disclosure and Barring forms (previously Criminal Records Bureau Clearance).

Nominated by Mrs Brunt Seconded by Mr Parker

The vote was unanimous.

Licensed Lay Minister. The meeting confirmed that one Licensed Lay Minister (LLM) should be on the PCC. Mr. Chris Miller was duly elected. This is renewed annually.

The vote was unanimous.

Elections :

Independent Financial Examiner.

Mr. B Jefferd

Nominated – Mr Hissett Seconded - Mrs Elcome

The vote was unanimous

Elected Lay Members of the PCC:

Mrs Elcome

Nominated – Mr. Starksfield Seconded – Mrs Pearson

Mr. Hissett

Nominated – Mrs Cooper Seconded – Mrs Young

Thanks were expressed to the PCC for its work on behalf of the Church.

Deanery Synod.

Mrs Watkin and Mrs Sharpe were re-elected as representatives at the Deanery Synod by unanimous vote. There were no abstentions.

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Sides People.

All those currently serving were elected unanimously.

Additionally the following were elected as Sides People :

Mr and Mrs Welton	Mrs Young
Mrs Elcome	Mr Hissett

Thanks were expressed and the importance of sides people was emphasised as they are the first faces met in church and the impression they make on newcomers is profound. Should anyone else wish to become a sides person please contact Mrs Hissett.

Electoral Roll Officer

Mrs Hissett was elected by unanimous vote. There were no abstentions.

Mission Action Plan :

The Mission Action Plan has been superseded by the Diocesan Action Plan. There is a proposed date of 9th July for the priests, wardens and treasurers to meet together to discuss the action plan and decide the best way to look at the document and move forward.

Any Other Business Rector's Address

The Rector urged the PCC to be forward looking. He believes that it is crucial

- to be positive and to behave in a positive way
- to give visiting priests a warm reception
- to remember the thriving lay ministry that already exists in the Parish
- that pastoral work continues to be at the heart of everything that happens in church
- to embrace families
- to embrace the exciting process of re-ordering

2015 has been an outstanding year in particular in the areas of fundraising, development of special services and through people taking risks and being creative.

He thanked everyone for their support of him as rector and for the support of his family.

Mrs Gorton raised a vote of thanks for his long and devoted services to the Church and the community.

Meeting Closed : After saying "The Grace" the meeting closed at 12.45 p.m.

Post APCM PCC Meeting to ratify PCC Officers

The following were duly elected:

Mrs Sharpe – Secretary
Mr. Parker – Treasurer
Mr Hissett – Vice Chairman

Electoral Roll 2017

The total number of names on the Electoral Roll is 85.

This represents a decrease of 2 from last year.

Ros Hissett

Annual Report on the proceedings of the Parochial Church Council and the activities of the parish generally.

Incumbent :	Vacancy
Bank :	Barclays Bank, Biggleswade
Independent Examiner	Mr. B. Jefferd

Administrative Information

The church of St. Mary the Virgin is situated at the end of Church Street, Gamlingay.

The church of St. George is situated on the Astor Estate in Hatley St. George.

The Parish is part of the Diocese of Ely within the Church of England.

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a charity excepted from registration with the Charity Commission.

PCC members who have served from 24th April 2016 until the end of the year:

The Revd Steven Rothwell	Chair (until September 2016)
Mr Alec Hissett	Vice Chair (from September 2016)
Mr Christopher Miller	Reader and Churchwarden
Mrs Jan Cooper	Churchwarden
Mrs Margaret Sharpe	Secretary + Deanery Synod Representative (until October 2016)
Mrs Brenda Elcome	Elected lay representative and Secretary (since November 2016)
Mr Ian Parker	Treasurer
Mrs Helma Watkin	Deanery Synod Representative
Mrs Valerie Miller	Assistant Churchwarden
Mr M Wareham	Deputy Churchwarden
Mr J Welton	Deputy Churchwarden
Mr Andrew Smith	Elected lay representative
Mrs Ros Hissett	Elected lay representative and Electoral Roll Officer

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Structure, governance and management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules.

Objectives and activities

The PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent in promoting within the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church: pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has maintenance responsibilities for the Church buildings at Gamlingay and Hatley St. George.

PCC Committees:

- The Task Force and Buildings committee is responsible for planning and organising the general maintenance, repair and restoration of the buildings. The Buildings Committee was renamed to incorporate the re-ordering project. This committee also has responsibility for the hall and cottage.
- The Children's Committee was created in 2011 to address the needs of young people within the church.
- The Education and Worship Committee meets three times a year to review the previous season and to plan forthcoming services and spiritual events.
- The Joint Benefice Music Committee is made up of members of the two parishes in the benefice to plan music for worship in all three churches.
- The Social Committee plans and organises regular social events and assists as necessary with other functions.
- The Fundraising Committee plans and organises fund raising events.
- The Standing Committee is the only committee required by law. It has power to transact the business of the PCC between its meetings, subject to directions given by the Council. The Standing Committee also has responsibility for Stewardship.

The Deanery Synod representatives report back on meetings of the Deanery Synod. Gamlingay comes under the Deanery of St. Neots.

Affiliated Church Groups

- Bell Ringers – a dedicated group ring the bells of St. Mary the Virgin weekly.
-
- Guild of St. Mary – The Guild was formed from the Mothers Union and Young Wives groups and is now over 40 years old. It meets usually on the third Monday of the month.
-
- Friends of St. Mary's – This charity raises funds for the preservation, repair, restoration and improvement of the Church, its fabric embellishments and precincts.

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The Child Protection Policy as set out by the Diocese continues to be implemented. Mrs Loudon is the PCC's appointed Children's Advocate. Mr. David Elcome is responsible for the Disclosure and Barring forms.

Ministry

During 2016 the normal pattern of services was:

1 st Sunday	8am BCP Holy Communion 9.30am Sparks 10am All age/family worship	Gamlingay Gamlingay Gamlingay
2 nd Sunday	9.30am Parish Eucharist 11am Holy Communion	Gamlingay Hatley
3 rd Sunday	9.30am Parish Eucharist	Gamlingay
4 th Sunday	8am BCP Holy Communion 9.30am Parish Eucharist 6pm Evening Service	Hatley Gamlingay Gamlingay
5 th Sunday	9.30am Parish Eucharist	Gamlingay
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday	9.30 am Morning Prayer	Gamlingay
Wednesday	9.30am Holy Communion	Gamlingay
1 st Monday	10am	Avenells Way

Church Attendance:

The average usual church attendance based on the sample month of October is 40 over 16 years of age and 3 under 16.

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From the Registers

	At Gamlingay		At Hatley	
	2015	2016	2015	2016
Baptisms	9	13	2	0
Confirmations	0	0	0	0
Funerals	10	9	0	0
Marriage Blessings	1	1	0	1
Thanksgiving for birth of a child	0	1	0	0
Memorial Services	0	0	0	0
Weddings	6	5	1	0

Review of the Year

It is about a year ago that some of us found out that our Rector, Steve Rothwell would be leaving us. By the time he left he had been with us for ten years and if we are realistic about it, it was time for him to move on.

It is now over six months since Steve left and I have to report that the parish is still in very good shape. The reason for this is because of the dedication, hard work and generosity of everybody associated with our church. Some of us may hold higher profile positions than others but every single person who is involved with any church activity is assisting our church as a whole to continue, even without a Rector at the helm.

Activities over the past sixth months have continued seamlessly. Fundraising activities, social activities, house groups, music, and, of course, all of our church services have continued owing to the hard work of so many people. An indication of this commitment will be seen elsewhere in this report.

One of the strengths of our parish has always been our Lay Ministry team. This goes back some 30 years or so and is something of which we should be very proud. There are reports from our lay ministers elsewhere in this document but it would be good to thank them all at this point for all that they do.

In brief, our Lay Ministry team consists of the following;

Mr Christopher Miller – Reader (Licensed Lay Minister), responsible for preaching, teaching and leading services.

Mrs Valerie Miller – Authorised Lay Minister (Pastoral), responsible for coordinating our pastoral group and heading up our pastoral strategy within the parish.

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Mr Phil Loudon – Authorised Lay Minister (Worship Leader), responsible for leading worship throughout the benefice.

Mrs Gerry Brunt – Authorised Lay Minister (Social Awareness), responsible for coordinating arrangement for the local food bank.

Mrs Sandra Macrow – Newly appointed Authorised Lay Minister (Children’s Work), involved with co-leading Sparks.

Mrs Philippa Pearson has completed an Authorised Lay Minister course as a Worship Leader but has yet to be authorised.

At our APCM in 2016 it was agreed that, as we were entering a period of vacancy, a “warden team” would be set up in order to spread the load of work required to be done. This has proved to be a great success and thanks are due to all members of that team:

Mrs Jan Cooper – Churchwarden

Mr Christopher Miller – Churchwarden

Mr Mike Wareham – Deputy Churchwarden

Mr Jamie Welton – Deputy Churchwarden

Mrs Valerie Miller – Assistant Churchwarden

Each member of the warden team is on duty on one Sunday each month which relieves the pressure on individuals. I am sure that as we move forward we can all see a bright future for our church.

Thank you so much to everybody involved in any way!

Chris Miller

Treasurer’s Report

The accounts are laid out as they were last year. The first page shows the Income and Expenditure Account for the General Fund, so this excludes any ‘restricted funds’ (that is where money is given for a specific purpose – e.g. restoration).

The ‘general fund’ shows all our voluntarily donated and fund-raising income and income from the Church hall and cottage. You will see that voluntary giving is down slightly in 2016 from £27,493 to £26,969. Unfortunately, this shows a continuing trend. Fund raising income was just slightly lower than our 2015 figure and I have included a graph showing the ‘net surplus’ on each event. So, our total income has reduced from £49,680 to £48,462 – a drop of 2%.

On the expenditure side, total costs have increased very slightly overall. The PCC are very pleased to report that we did manage to pay the whole Ministry Share amount to the Diocese of £29,696. Ministry expenses have reduced of course and during the vacancy, although the ministry share does not change, we now get all costs of visiting priests reimbursed from the diocese

So the overall surplus of income over expenditure was £1,436 for the year (in 2015, £3,144).

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Each of the 'restricted funds' are detailed on page 3 of the accounts with an explanatory sentence for each. The balances on each fund at the beginning of the year, together with any income or expenditure during the year, and thus the balances at the end of the year are shown in the table in the middle of page 3.

There was a small unspent balance on the 'reordering fund' at 31st December.

Two restricted funds have been closed during 2016. One was the East Hatley sinking fund, which, given current circumstances, the PCC felt was no longer required. The second was the historic Clock Close fund, in which was money from income over a piece of land off Cinques Road called Clock Close. It was held in CCLA Fixed Interest Securities Fund. A separate charity for this was registered in 1967, but it is believed the money arose a lot earlier than that. After extensive research by the PCC, it was decided that a separate charity or fund was not required, and the fund, and the charity, have been closed down. Monies from both of these funds have been transferred to the general PCC restoration fund (which in the case of both 'restrictions' the PCC are able to do).

[If anyone is interested, I am happy to make available the report I prepared for the PCC on Clock Close].

Monies collected for 'restricted purposes' and paid over in their entirety are not included in the general fund or the restricted funds, but are shown by way of note at the bottom of page 3 (i.e. money for Niassa, Christian Aid, and fees payable to the Diocese for weddings and funerals).

Page 4 shows PCC assets (i.e. bank and deposit accounts) at the 31st December and how those assets are represented by our 'funds'. Because of the surplus on the General Fund in the year, it is good to note that the cumulative surplus on the General Fund has increased.

Ian Parker, PCC Treasurer.

Report on the Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the Churches in the Parish and Churchwardens' Report

The Terrier and Inventory for Gamlingay and Hatley have been completed with one or two minor changes. The two blue notice boards and the new legilium have been added.

A new vestry lock has been fitted for insurance purposes. This has been generously funded by the Brogan Group.

Mr and Mrs Spaul have kindly fitted doors to the bookcase in the coffee corner, stabilised the shelf in front of the church warden pew and added a much needed shelf in a vestry cupboard.

For the Church Hall cottage, a broken window latch was repaired by Mr Zerny without charge and the porch roof has been replaced. Mr Welton is now the point of contact for the tenants.

The rectory hasn't been rented out since the start of the vacancy and we have been checking it once a week since the decorators completed their work. A new fence to the side of the building has replaced a dangerous wall. An ill-fitting side-gate has been reported to the Diocese Property Officer.

We have been working on producing the Parish Profile with the churchwardens from Everton and with contribution from parishioners from Hatley. We have been guided through this process by Les

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Oglesby, acting as our Bishop's Vacancy Officer. His knowledge, skill and experience have been of immense help and we would like to express our gratitude to him for all he has done.

We would like to thank everyone who is involved with caring for our church, preparing it for worship and contributing to the services each week: flower arrangers, organists, pianists, cleaners, bell-ringers, choir, readers, intercessors, preachers, worship leaders, deacons, sub-deacons, sacristans, acolytes, healing team, sound system operators, coffee-makers - your contribution is invaluable.

Finally we would like to thank the other members of the churchwarden team for their help and support. This report is really on behalf of all five members and we would **all** like to thank the whole congregation for their support during the vacancy.

Chris Miller and Jan Cooper

Deanery Synod Report

At the March meeting Martin Macfarlane, treasurer, thanked everyone for their efforts enabling the Deanery Share to be paid in full, 2015. In September, Church Wardens and Deanery Representatives met to discuss the Deanery Plan.

Various reports were given throughout the year:

Rev. Jes Salt informed of the work of the Food Bank. In the Ely Diocese between 600 and 700 people were given food parcels every month.

Tara Skey gave a positive report on the work she is doing in pursuit of setting up Youth Work in the Deanery. At the beginning of May a new Youth Club was opened in the Church Hall, St. Neots.

Sandra Macrow described how much she had enjoyed the Discipleship Course and has now undertaken an ALM in Children's Ministry.

Helma Watkin

Report of the Licensed Lay Minister (Reader)

The primary role of the LLM is to teach, preach and lead worship. The LLM licence lasts for three years and my licence was renewed in October 2016 for a further three years. However, in July 2017, when I shall be 70, I need to obtain "Permission to Officiate" or to retire. During the past year I have regularly preached at the Parish Eucharist, officiated and/or preached at Evensong and taken part in First Sunday services, as well as officiating/assisting at occasional services. I have also officiated at several funerals.

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Activities within the Benefice of Gamlingay and Everton during 2016 read as follows:

Type of Service	Led or assisted	Preached only	Both
Eucharist	10	5	1
Holy Communion by extension	1		
Morning Prayer	123		
First Sunday	3	1	
Carol Services	5	1	
Evensong	1		4
Informal Services (Contemporary)	1		
Word & Worship (E)	7		
Holy Communion to the sick/housebound	7		
Funeral	1		
Holy Week	2		
Avenells Way	8		
Remembrance			1
Christingle			1
Thanksgiving for birth	1		
Thanksgiving for marriage	1		

I have also been involved on a regular basis with home study groups, bereavement visiting, general pastoral visiting, taking services at Avenell's Way, home communions and maintaining a relationship with the First School in the form of co-directing their choir. I serve on the Education & Worship Committee, Music Committee, Pastoral Group, Healing Ministry group and the Buildings Task Force Committee.

I have a Working Agreement which is agreed with my incumbent (this year the Rural Dean) and approved by the Parochial Church Council in May each year. A copy is held by the Bishop of Huntingdon.

Chris Miller

Authorised Lay Minister (ALM) in Pastoral Care

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During 2016 I led 10 meetings of the Pastoral Group. I attended and played an active part in 11 of the 12 monthly services held in Avenells Way community room and am part of the team who take communion by extension to the housebound. I have visited the sick; in hospital, in nursing homes and in their own homes. I have helped prepare parents for their child's baptism. In the Vacancy I am the contact for all Baptisms and liaise with the visiting Priest. I organised the All Souls service. I will need to be re-authorized in September 2017 if I am to continue as an ALM.

Valerie Miller

Authorised Lay Minister (ALM) Worship

Since first being authorised as an ALM (Worship Leader) I have been involved in the planning and execution of various types of services, both regular and occasional, in the Benefice. For example:

- Sunday Morning Family Service
- Word & Worship
- Evensong
- Sunday @ 6

- Pet Service
- Harvest
- Remembrance Day Service
- Christingle

This has continued this year and as we now have a vacancy I have been involved in leading more Non-Eucharistic services across the Benefice. I have worked closely with Chris (Miller) who has been very supportive and has planned a schedule for the coming months. I would expect/hope that this will continue until our vacancy has been filled at which time it will be up to our new priest to decide how he intends to use us/me. I would like to record my thanks to Chris for his help and support.

Phil Loudon

Children's Work : SPARKS

Rebranded Sunday School, new Logo and colours.

Purchased new bean bags, rug, shelves, made a welcome sign, produced newsletter including our Ten best ways to live – Ten Commandments – displayed in our area.

Noah's Ark Story of Noah's Ark using 'Godly Play' (wooden figures and felt materials) - studied at ALM course.

Lent Learnt about Lent and Pancake Day - Pancake Race around the church, children enjoyed pancakes with fruit and cream after Sunday School. The Co-op donated the pancakes, lemons and chocolate sauce.

Mother Day Theme of Nurture - Children brought in pictures of Nurture to hang on Prayer Tree and learnt about caring for others.

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Easter shared the Easter story and showed the children the Easter Garden in church.

Pentecost Learnt about Pentecost being the birthday of the church – the children enjoyed blowing out the candles on a homemade cake after Sunday School. During Pentecost the congregation prayed for each street in the village. The children helped to decorate pictures of flames with tissue paper, these were displayed in church.

St Georges Day Read the story of George and the Dragon.

Dressed up as St George/Dragon/Princess and gave out flyers around Church Street and Mill Street for the Festival of Choirs concert held on St Georges Day.

Olympics At Sunday School, we had a sports day with various races, running race, sack race, egg & spoon race. As Service began we had an ‘opening ceremony’ where the children waved county flags and twirled ribbons.

We also did a ‘closing ceremony’ at the end.

The children learnt about Olympic values – Friendship/Respect/Excellence and Paralympic values – Determination/Inspiration/Courage & Equality; they learnt how we apply these values to our daily lives.

Prayer Teaching the five fingers of prayer, how we use our hands to remind ourselves what to pray for. The children also learnt they can pray about anything/anytime/anywhere.

We built a Prayer station and displayed in church to encourage prayer – you choose a ribbon and tie it onto the wire – this is now covered in ribbons – a lovely colourful display.

Summer Holiday The children learnt about journeys and where Jesus had travelled. We imagined we were on holiday at Gamlingay Church – we took a tour inside and outside the church and then the children wrote a holiday postcard about it to their friends at home. These were displayed on our ‘Postcards’ board.

Gamlingay Village Show We gave out a packet of sweets and a newsletter to all children who visited our stall. The Co-op kindly donated the sweets. Free colouring for children. Free stone for adults ‘take what you need card’.

Paint a mug, bags for life, holding crosses and earrings were sold. All proceeds to Niassa.

Harvest Festival Children learnt about the Harvest and how in some countries it is difficult to grow food and we thank God for the Harvest, for the sun and the rain etc. We thought about our friends in Niassa. The children took the fruit and vegetables up to the alter during the service.

Daffodil bulbs were donated by Waresley Garden Centre – The children learnt the Mustard Seed story – children planted bulbs next to the wall. They were given mustard seeds in an envelope ‘All you need is faith as small as a mustard seed’ to grow at home.

‘Colour the World Orange’ day for CRPS 6th November each year - We covered the floodlights with Orange acetate to light up the church orange. This was supporting CRPS - a condition Gerry Brunt suffers from.

The Eiffel Tower, Blackpool Tower and the Fountains in Trafalgar Square were among some of the other buildings in the country that were also lit up orange on 26th November 2016. More info #CRPSORANGEDAY

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Niassa We refreshed the Niassa board with new pictures and the children learnt about the Amy Lothian School that the church helped to build in Niassa. We told the children all about Amy and the Gamlingay link with the school in Niassa. We hope to make Facebook contact with the Niassa school children in 2017.

Advent At Sunday School the children learnt how we prepare our hearts for Jesus during Advent. They decorated cardboard hearts with jewels and these were displayed on the Sparks Christmas Tree at the Big Christmas weekend. During the Service, the children learnt all about the advent wreath, the candles and meanings and they read these out to the congregation.

Gamlingay Christmas Lights Switch On (Free of charge) Community Event - Met with Parish Council and PC secured donation for two Village Christmas Trees from local company All Growth, Peter Middlicott. SM purchased lights and stars for the trees, re-imbursed by PC. The PC advertised the event on Facebook. Local businesses agreed to have tables outside their businesses, Co-op - Mince Pies / Hairdressers – Tea & Coffee / The Cock Pub ‘ Mulled Wine / The Indian – Samosas. Great turn out by the community, starting off around the Christmas Tree outside the church with carols; the church choir led the carols. All walked to the Village Christmas Tree where Father Christmas gave out presents to the children (Volunteer) for more carols, on to the Co-op for refreshments and carols then ending at the Indian for some more carols/nibbles and a Firework finale (also donated and set off in the school field away from any danger). Parish Council thanked everyone for coming and advised donations were going to be for next years’ event.

Christmas Big Weekend Sparks stall sold frosted lanterns, earrings, bags for life, holding crosses, sweets, crisps, popcorn and drinks. Free colouring for children. Proceeds £169.00 to Niassa.

Living Nativity – Christingle Children dressed up as Mary Joseph etc, Mel narrated – started off at the Jannah walking down Church Street towards the church – calling in at the pub to be told ‘no room at the Inn’.

The wise men collected the gifts from the Co-op and we sang a verse of a carol at each stop including the Village Christmas Tree and then onto the Church where the children stood at the ‘stable’. Whilst the congregation arrived for the Christingle Service. The event was advertised on Facebook and in school bags and some of the community came to listen to the story and see the children. Brownie leader and friends were interested in the idea which was encouraging.

Sandra Macrow and Melanie Truett

THE HATLEYS 2016-17

◆ Hatley St George church ◆ St Denis church, East Hatley

HATLEY ST GEORGE CHURCH

Services

- Monday in Holy Week, Stations of the Cross reflective service
- As part of Mrs Pearson's ALM Worship Leader training, her parish project was to create a generic but flexible liturgy for Evening Prayer across the Benefice. Using this new service booklet, she led an Evening Prayer service at Hatley church on 26 June
- Wedding blessing in September; funeral in September
- Mrs Pearson led an Advent Reflective afternoon in November focusing on the Great 'O' Advent Antiphons, followed by Advent Evening Prayer
- The carol service on Wednesday 21 December 2016 was well attended by the community and the Christmas Day service went well

Events and fundraising

£631.70 was raised during the Hatley Big Weekend Friday 26-Sunday 28 June 2016. This covered a flower festival, concert and Village Fête at the church over the weekend.

Mrs Pearson has organised Hatley Village Fête at the church for the last five years but has now stepped down as organiser. The Hatley Village Association (HVA) has now taken over the Fête as a village event and this will take place on Sunday 9 July 2017 from 2-5pm on the village green.

Hatley Coffee Mornings on the first Tuesday of each month at Hatley Village Hall are organised by members of the HVA, and money raised will be split equally between HVA and Hatley church.

Church fabric and churchyard

Repairs and maintenance: Simon Jarvis carried out temporary repair work to the external drains and downpipes in April 2016.

Quinquennial: The inspection took place in April 2016 by Nicholas Warns who felt the church was in a fair condition. There are some items in Category A that need to be addressed within 12 months.

Churchyard: Laurence and William Drake continue to look after a few maintenance things at the church and churchyard. The meadow on the south side of the church was hand cut with a scythe a few times in the year by Alistair Hobbs from Everton.

Composting toilet

The toilet was installed in August 2016 and an official 'opening' ceremony by Steve Rothwell took place in September with people from the Hatleys' and Gamlingay attending. The toilet was bought and installed mostly from grants.

Grants	Date awarded	Amount
Gamlingay Community Turbine Tithe Fund	November 2014	£350
South Cambridgeshire District Council Community Chest Fund	February 2015	£1,000
Cambridgeshire Historic Churches Trust	March 2015	£1,000
Gamlingay Community Turbine Tithe Fund	November 2016	£500
Total grants received		£2,850
Project cost including installation		£4,200
Money from Hatley Restoration Account to cover difference		£1,350

The church and the local community

For over six years, Mrs Pearson has been involved with Hatley village activity including being a member of the HVA, which plans events for the Village Hall and the village, and taken time to attend Hatley parish Council meetings and be a spokesperson for Hatley church at these and other events. She stepped down from these activities in October 2016. Special thanks also go to Penny Hewlett and Pam Offord for their continued support with preparing the church for services and to others in the community who help with looking after the building, including the Hatley Estate.

ST DENIS CHURCH

The handover of St Denis, East Hatley from SCDC to the Friends of Friendless Churches was officially agreed by Council at SCDC on 8 November 2016. In 2014 Gamlingay and Hatley PCC agreed and pledged £500 from the St Denis Sinking Fund for the building under the new ownership.

Philippa Pearson

Committee Reports

Report of the Education & Worship Committee

The Education and Worship Committee has increased its number of meetings per year to 5 or 6, certainly meeting before each PCC meeting.

The committee reviews and looks forward and receives reports from those involved with lay ministry and children's work.

During the vacancy the main task of the Education and Worship Committee has been to monitor and to make sure that all areas of education and worship continue.

In this vein, Faith Groups have continued to meet in Lent and Advent and the weekly Bible Study attracts a core group who value the time to look in depth at Bible passages.

Services including the laying on of hands and prayers for healing have now become a regular feature of our worship pattern, and this provision is offered on a monthly basis. The new structure, whereby prayers for healing are offered in the memorial chapel while communion is taking place, seems to be a welcome and acceptable development.

Chris Miller (Chairman)

Music Report to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Music continues to feature heavily within the worship of our church.

The Benefice Choir continues to flourish. We are a loyal choir of 14 members, with members from both Gamlingay and Everton. This is an excellent example of cooperation across the benefice. The small A Cappella group also meets on a monthly basis and performs on occasion.

Our contribution to music across the benefice since the last annual meeting has included:

Ash Wednesday (G)

Maundy Thursday (G)

Advent Carol Service (G)

Christmas Carol Services (G, E)

Christmas Carol Service (H)

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The Gamlingay Choir sings on a Sunday at the Parish Eucharist and on various other occasions (eg special services, weddings, funerals). Thanks are due to them all for their loyalty and regular commitment.

As usual our gratitude goes to the organists/pianists who contribute so much to the high quality of the music at Gamlingay church. Thanks must go to Rex Whitfield (Gamlingay organist), Jane Orchiston (First Sunday pianist), Andrew Smith (occasional organist & A Cappella director) and Melissa Dell'Anno (occasional accompanist). Thanks are also due to Andrew Smith who willingly took over directing the choir at Christmas while I was on other duties. We must consider ourselves very fortunate to have such a wealth of talent in this area.

Chris Miller)

Gamlingay Buildings Task Force

The Buildings Committee met 7 times in 2016 with an average attendance of 5.7 members. Since our rector left Gamlingay there have been 8 people on the committee.

The Friends now have 3 representatives, who attend meetings on a rotational basis.

The completion of Heritage Lottery Funded repairs to the roofs, gutters, drains, heating system and south porch has been a major item this year. This work is now finished and a detailed report can be found on the church website. Our own contributions, in order to meet the grant condition, have been the improvement in visitor communication with regard to the history of the church, by way of the heritage boards at the back of the church, children's guides and visitor guided tours.

The other major task of the committee has been the preparation of church re-ordering plans and improvements to the 'Statements of Significance' and 'Statement of Need' documents that were asked for by the DAC. A community questionnaire has been prepared in order to involve as many people within the community as possible in this task and this is also available on the church website.

Energy saving has also been tackled in our meetings and this has resulted in The Friends donating low energy lighting for the nave resulting in significant savings in electricity.

A consultant has investigated the feasibility of photovoltaic panels on the church roof.

The church hall and cottage has also been placed under the remit of the committee this year. The church cottage tenancy agreement has been updated and now includes clear responsibilities for the tenant. Repairs have been made to the cottage porch roof and window catches. Defective heaters in the church hall have been repaired.

The committee also dealt with urgent repairs to the organ blower, the church clock and has given assistance to St George Hatley with items identified by their last quinquennial inspection.

John Boocock (Chairman)

Fundraising Committee

2016 was another busy year for the Committee. In April we held another 'festival of choirs' afternoon concert in the church with a St George's day theme. This included performances from the two school choirs, the Community Choir, the Benefice Choir, the A Cappella group and the barbershop quartet. In October the church was once again transformed into a Cinema with Mamma

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Mia shown on the big screen. Finally in December there was the Christmas Weekend which this year had a Victorian Market theme with musical entertainment, dancing, have-a-go bell-ringing sessions, refreshments and a grand raffle. As well as raising funds, all of these events were enjoyed and supported by people from across the wider community in Gamlingay and beyond.

In 2017 we are going to be even busier with five fundraising events planned, the first two of which will already have taken place before the annual meeting. Events for 2017 are as follows:

Saturday 11th March 2017: Gamlingay Has Talent in the Eco-hub with a licensed bar from 7pm and the show starting at 7.30pm. Local groups and individuals have been invited to enter an act. This year's event will include performances by the Gamlingay Community Choir and local band Acid Reflux.

Saturday 22nd April 2017: Cell Talk: Cell talk is a two woman play based on conversations between Julian of Norwich and Margery Kempe. The Play lasts about an hour and will be preceded by music from the A Cappella Group starting at 7pm in Gamlingay Church.

Weekend of 1st and 2nd July: Scarecrow weekend and fete: Local groups and individuals will be invited to display a scarecrow in or around the church over the weekend with a theme of 'film and TV'. The main event during the weekend will be a summer fete from 2pm to 5pm on the Saturday in the churchyard.

29 September 2017: Auction of Promises: It is planned to hold an auction of promises after the harvest supper. People are to be invited to offer their time and talents to be auctioned after the meal. The proceeds from the usual harvest events will continue to be divided between Church and Niassa with any additional income from the auction going to Church funds.

Weekend of 9th and 10th December 2017: Christmas Fayre: Further details of our main Christmas fundraising event will be published nearer the time but it can be expected to include the usual stalls, refreshments, entertainments and a grand raffle.

We would like to thank everyone who contributed to last year's events and we look forward to your continued support in 2017.

The Fundraising Committee members are currently: Andrew Smith, Alec Hissett, Brenda Elcome, Jamie Welton, Jan Cooper, Ann Loudon, Pam Young and Sandra Macrow.

Andrew Smith (Chairman)

Social Committee

The Social Committee has continued to provide regular opportunities for members of the congregation to enjoy each other's company as well as master-minding the provision of refreshments at big events such as the Village Show and Big Christmas Weekend. The monthly Soup Lunches in the Church Hall are still proving popular and in 2016 raised well over £1,000 for church funds as well as £652 for Christian Aid. As always we wish to record our gratitude to all those folk who generously make and donate the soups and puddings. Without them it would not be possible.

We have a full programme of events planned for 2017 and, before the APCM, will already have enjoyed two of the most popular – namely, the Burns Night celebration in January and the Pancake Brunch in February. Details of others will appear on pew sheets in due course.

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The hard working committee currently consists of : *Anne Clarke, Brenda Elcome, Angela Jackson, Dawn Martin, Valerie Miller, Philippa Smalls and Helma Watkin.*

We are very grateful to those willing souls on whom we know we can call when extra help is needed.

Brenda Elcome (Chairperson)

Affiliated Church Groups Reports

Gamlingay Bell Ringers Report .

We have 8 regular bell ringers of which 6 are full members and 2 are junior members of the Ely Diocesan Association of Church Bell Ringers. We maintain an information website at <http://www.gamlingaybellringers.btck.co.uk/>

In 2016 we continued to ring prior to the majority of services in the church and with the help of visiting ringers maintained regular Thursday night practice sessions.

Our young ringers are encouraged to progress with their bell ringing skills by attending the Young Ringers practices held within the district. In 2016 Bronwen called her first quarter peal as sole conductor and also successfully rang an inside bell to a quarter peal of Bob Major.

This year we have been asked to ring for 5 weddings and there have been 9 quarter peals rung on the bells. Four of the quarter peals have been by members of the local band, three were on Hunts. District quarter peal days and two were by members of the 'Golden Oldies' ringing group.

Occasions that have been marked by quarter peals have been:

- The memorial service for Stan Smalls (a former Gamlingay bell ringer).
- The farewell service for Rev Steven Rothwell.
- The 90th Birthday of HM QE11.

Our Ringing Outing was to West Hertfordshire and we rang at Kings Langley (8), Apsley (6), Berkhamsted (8), Northchurch (8) and Aldbury (6). We enjoyed a friendly lunch in the garden of a pub in Berkhamsted.

Nine ringers and friends enjoyed our Christmas Party at the Three Horseshoes in Graveley.

Our sound control shutters have suffered some minor damage due the high winds experienced during the year. Two of our bell ropes have been sent away to have new machine spliced tail ends. The ladder, door and platform for access to the top of the tower have been replaced as part of the HLF project to repair roof covering, gutters and drains.

Our efforts to recruit more ringers have so far been unsuccessful. Some interest was shown at the stall manned at the Village Show but most were from foreign parts and could not result in more Gamlingay ringers. Other local enquiries have shown a lack of willingness for people to commit themselves. Three promising youngsters from a family in Waresley were taught for a period of 11 weeks but chose not to continue.

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Our teaching emphasis is on safety and instructors are DBS certified and have ART training.

Thank you to the loyal and reliable band of bell ringers who keep our bells in Gamlingay sounding.

John Boocock (Tower Captain)

The Guild of St Mary

The Guild of St Mary is a group of ladies who meet on the third Monday of each month, at 7.30pm in the Church hall. We have 29 members of which approximately 75% are regular attenders of church services. All members are willing to, and do, support church activities. At our AGM in January 2017 we agreed to keep our annual membership at £6 and our monthly attendance fee at £2. Visitors, male or female, are welcome to come to any of our meetings and we ask them to pay £4. During 2016 we had speakers on Myeloma UK, Scotland, 'The Kasiisi Porridge Project', Egypt, 'Help for Heroes' and 'Link to Hope'. We have enjoyed a garden party, a Christmas party, afternoon tea at Southill and an outing to Bletchley Park. Over the year we have made charitable donations to all our speakers, filled 21 shoe boxes for the 'Link to Hope' charity and presented a cheque to the value of £140 to the East Anglian Air Ambulance.

During 2017 our chosen charity is the children's ward at Addenbrookes hospital. We have booked speakers on The Bayeux Tapestry, Medical detection Dogs, Audley End, Gamlingay Wood, Mercy Ships and 'Miss Pye & Mr Barber'. There will definitely be meetings when we entertain ourselves, enjoy some food & more than likely some alcohol and we will have outings. Why don't you join us and bring a friend?

Valerie Miller – Chairperson

The Friends of St Mary's Church, Gamlingay

The Friends of St Marys had a successful year with the events not only raising money but all were very enjoyable for those attending and hopefully it will make it easier to sell tickets in the following years.

We ran three events in 2016. The spring concert took place in the church in late February at which Douglas Coombes did the church proud.

The golf day was held to the latter end of April with 12 teams of 4 taking part at Bourn Golf Club (a first for us). A truly horrible day weather wise but everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves with the new surroundings and delicious food afterwards. A repeat is now being planned for 24th April 2017 and we hope for better weather and an equally enjoyable experience.

The Barn Dance (Ceilidh) was again held in July at Castle Farm. Again another successful event with a large attendance and a very enjoyable evening and financially pleasing outcome. Thanks to the Cambridge University Ceilidh Band and an excellent hog roast by Woodview Farm Shop. A repeat is already in the planning stage to be held on 2nd July 2017.

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The only improvement The Friends carried out during the year to the church was to illuminate the fourth side of the tower and some repairs to the tower lights. The lights will be guarded in the near future to protect them from the grass cutters.

The total financial balance is in the region of £9500 and our net income from events and donations for the year was just over £4500

Although we had a successful year we did have some low points with the loss of Stan Smalls who had been our treasurer since The Friends were formed and the resignation of Philip Gorton, due to ill health. Both of them have done an enormous amount of work for us in getting the Friends up and running and indeed ever since our inception.

We have managed to recruit two new members in the year but need more members so that we can achieve more - after all there are only six of us.

Jonathan Johnson (Chair 2016)

Other Reports

Christian Aid Report

The 2016 Christian Aid Week was, as in the previous year, managed by the joint Gamlingay, Everton and Hatley committee. Having learned a few lessons in 2015 all went smoothly and the committee should be congratulated for its achievements. A sum of £3,716.80, which included £652.40 from four of Gamlingay's Soup Lunches, was raised. It is worth recording that in both Everton and Hatley the house-to-house collection totals were up on the previous year.

Shortly before the designated week a Christian Aid speaker came to give us a talk in Gamlingay Church Hall. For those of us who attended, the evening was a real eye-opener and we all came away inspired to do our best to support the charity in its work.

Last year there were 34 collectors in Gamlingay and 2 in Hatley. This enabled us to cover almost all of the roads but a few of our regulars will, due to ill health or moving away, be unable to help this year. More volunteers are needed for 2017 – please speak to one of us if you feel you might be able to help with this vital work.

There will be a short service of preparation for Christian Aid week at 10.30 a.m. on Friday 12th May in Gamlingay church. It is hoped that as many collectors as possible will attend but anyone will be welcome to join us and lend their support. We will also be inviting all collectors to attend the Soup Lunch on 24th May as a thank you for their efforts.

2016 committee : Revd. Steven Rothwell

Valerie Miller, Brenda Elcome, Lindy Gorton (Gamlingay)

Pam Offord (Hatley) Dorothy Oglesby, Linday Bycroft (Everton)

Traidcraft – Fighting poverty through trade.

As a church we continue to support Traidcraft using Fairtrade products for tea, coffee, sugar and biscuits after services. At Christmas we sold Traidcraft cards. The toilet rolls and some cleaning

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products used in the Church hall are also from Traidcraft. For further information or to see a catalogue please see Valerie Miller.

Pastoral Group

A small group of Church members meets once a month to support each other, to share our concerns and pray for other members of the church community. Our primary concern is for the spiritual wellbeing and health of the individual. We try to keep in contact with those for whom we have concern. Some of us also take communion to the housebound.

If you, or anyone you know, need support from the pastoral team please have a word with Valerie Miller.

Chat Group

It is encouraging to report that the Chat Group is still going strong and we are now in our eighth year. There is a regular nucleus of members who enjoy the topical and life-related issues which are discussed, and included in our numbers are several non-regular church attenders. Between September 2009 and March 2017 there have been 88 meetings with a mean attendance of 14.

Topics discussed in the last year have included Tax, Gratuities, Children, Leadership, Packaging, Books, Fashion, Christmas News, Looking forward to 2017, Shopping and Parks.

We meet regularly on the second Wednesday of each month at 10.30am at 2 Charnocks Close and new members are always welcome. Meetings begin with coffee and last for about an hour and a quarter. All you need to bring is yourself and a willingness to express your view on the topic for the day!

Brenda Elcome and Chris Miller

Niassa

Great changes have occurred in the Church in Niassa and instead of one diocese there are now three (Bishops Mark and Denish ensured this was in place before leaving Niassa). However the people of Niassa remain among the poorest in the world!

The one positive note is that women are being empowered through education (a member of our congregation, who wishes to remain anonymous, contributes towards school uniform for school age girls to enable them to attend school) but all people there still desperately need our help.

Dawn Martin

Social Networking

Our Facebook page continues to be updated regularly, please visit it at:

THE PARISH OF GAMLINGAY WITH HATLEY ST GEORGE AND EAST HATLEY

www.facebook.com/gamlingaychurch

If you “tweet” you can find us [@Gamlingaychurch](https://twitter.com/Gamlingaychurch)

The Church website is also updated regularly and includes details of church related events and all services at Gamlingay, Hatley St George and Everton.

We are registered as a charity on the **Easy Fundraising** and **Easy Search** websites. If you purchase goods and/or services online please consider registering on **Easy Fundraising** and the Church will benefit from a donation every time you make a purchase. If you use one of the online search engines e.g. Google, using **Easy Search** will trigger a small donation, there is no need to register for this. Church funds have been boosted by over £1,150 since we first registered.

Full details can be found on the church website:

www.gamlingaychurch.co.uk

Alec Hissett