

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



## Weekly newsletter 17 March 2023



### *From Hilary...*

In the midst of Lent, we come this week to Refreshment (Mothering) Sunday with its themes of thanksgiving for nurture and celebration. Monday's celebration of St Joseph - earthly father to Jesus - reminds us that the care and nurture for which we are thankful is not only from mothers, although of course they play an enormously important part. Mothering Sunday rightly honours mothers, but the celebration is much deeper and richer than cards and presents for Mums. If we use it rightly, it takes us into both the joy and the grief of caring and nurture in all its forms, including acknowledgment of when it can fail, as we remember the nurturing love of God which we receive in so many ways.

Next week there will be more detail on Holy Week and Easter services. There is an option to 'do' Holy Saturday differently from our previous pattern, as we have two candidates for the confirmation in the cathedral scheduled for that evening. Talk to me on Sunday if you have interest in this service in which we renew Baptism vows and anticipate Easter, bringing in the Light of Christ with the new Easter candle.

Next week's newsletter will also carry a financial update for both the Benefice parishes. In these times of rising inflation and higher fuel costs, all churches are needing to be thinking ahead now in order to meet obligations through 2023. This is not a cause for anxiety but a reason to ask, 'what is God doing and asking of us in this situation'?

## Lent 2023

**Monday Lent Lunch:** Thank you for the Niassa donation this week, more welcome! The soup is always on the go each Monday, just in case, but we seem to be settling into non-attendance. Hospitality is still on offer, just let me (Hilary) know.

### Group Lent Sessions

Apologies that the Zoom link on Monday wasn't opened, contact Hilary if you would have used it.

Lent Study 2023      Time: This is a recurring meeting as advertised.

**Meeting ID: 820 0888 3446      Passcode: 208296**

### Monday afternoons 2 - 3pm at the Rectory

We looked again at Jeremiah this last week, leading us to think about the relationship with God in Jeremiah's time and how Jesus brings something different. Yet it is all part of the great story of God's seeking a right relationship with humanity. This coming Monday we celebrate St Joseph, which will be reflected in our Lent session that day.

**Wednesday evenings** continue using Amy Scott Robinson's book 'Images of Grace' and preparing for confirmation. This week's topic, 'Images of atonement', uses 1 Peter, 1 Samuel, Luke 7, Romans 3, Hebrews 7:4 and Exodus as we reflect on the Christian creeds. Next week with 'Images of restoration' we shall look at the great prayer of consecration in the Communion service.

## Services for the rest of March

**Sunday 19th March**      **Mothering Sunday (Fourth Sunday of Lent)**  
*Posies distributed from all three churches.*  
**9.30am**                      Parish Eucharist at Gamlingay  
**4pm**                              Evensong at Everton with "Mothering" in mind.



**Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> March**  
**1.30pm**                      Funeral of Joan Strudley at Gamlingay.

**Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March**  
**9.30am**                      Midweek Communion, Gamlingay

**Sunday 26th March**      **Fifth Sunday of Lent - Passiontide begins - clocks change**  
**9.30am**                      Parish Eucharist at Gamlingay  
**11.15am**                      Parish Eucharist at Everton

### REVISION OF ELECTORAL ROLL

**Please note** - the Electoral Roll for Gamlingay and Hatley is being revised.

Anyone wishing to be added or removed from the roll should please notify Valerie Miller by 26<sup>th</sup> March.

## ***NEWS FROM GAMLINGAY***

### **Simple Lunches:**

**Please note** that the lunch scheduled for the 21<sup>st</sup> March will not take place due to the funeral. (*See below*)

### **RIP Joan Strudley**

Joan's funeral is at Gamlingay church at 1.30pm on Tuesday 21st March, followed by refreshments in the Church Hall. Joan used to live in School Close, where she and her husband Roy (Roy died 15 years ago) moved as a mature couple. They were a sociable and active couple in their time - Joan used to ride over to the RSPB at Sandy on her moped. With no children of their own, neighbours Mel and Graham Hughes who lived nearby on School Close were 'family' for many years. They live now in Great Paxton but continued to support Joan. Joan had been in a Care Home in Sandy for the last 3 years and was somewhat reclusive after Roy's death, so many will not have known her. However, all are welcome to her funeral and the refreshments afterwards.

### **Mothering Sunday posies**

Please contact Sandra if you would be able to help with the provision of greenery and/or daffodils from the garden. Posies will be made up on Saturday morning in church - help there would also be much appreciated.

# ***NEWS FROM EVERTON***

**The APCM** on Sunday 12th took place over lunch. **Thank you** and well done to those who prepared the food, which was plentiful and delicious. The meeting received a draft report on the year, tabled at the meeting, including a summary of accounts. The final version of the report will be circulated to the Electoral Roll. The meeting approved what was received and some helpful suggestions were made for the coming year. In particular, a useful discussion took place on what shape the church at Everton can take into the future, acknowledging need for change to 'do what we can and not try to do what we can't'. The plan is to work with non-PCC members with short meetings after church, but also to come together soon for an extended planning time with an external facilitator.

Elections and Appointments were made as required by law. The same people were elected to the PCC as for 2022, and Everton continues without a Church Warden. The apparent significant deficit for the year was due to works to the church, including the clock. These were partly paid from monies carried over from 2021. Otherwise, income fairly well matched expenditure, which is an excellent achievement.

**Mothering Sunday** service will be Evensong at 4pm, Posies will be available from the open church in the morning. Thank you to Jane Butcher for facilitating this.

**Soup and Social** goes from strength to strength - this week the new front fence was officially opened by Ward Councillors Tracey Wye and partner Adam Zerney alongside the usual lunch with delicious soups, bread and pastries from Tesco and local bakery. The two independent Councillors gave time to listen to local concerns as well as enjoying the social event.



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## **'Maundy Thursday Seder Meal on 6<sup>th</sup> April at Gamlingay**

We will be having a seder meal, starting at 6.00pm in the Church Hall, followed by jacket potatoes with various fillings & fresh fruit. Tea & coffee will be available.

There is no charge, but all donations will go to our Niassa Appeal.

There will be a sign-up sheet in church for those wishing to attend.

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@gmail.com**

Contact details below show who to contact in each parish:

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*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.*