

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



## Weekly newsletter 9 February 2024



### *From Hilary:*

This Sunday is the last before Lent begins, and it is not accidental that the Gospel reading is about the Transfiguration - when Jesus is seen by a select, small group of his disciples in other-worldly appearance before he heads to Jerusalem. The hidden glory of God is a theme, as we then have the whole six weeks of Lent to prepare ourselves for the great festival of Easter, rather as we have Advent to prepare for Christmas. Lent, a penitential/preparation season, like Advent has a different feel, more personally reflective (and longer!) - and is more often observed as a season for fasting. In our northern hemisphere, there is practical sense for fasting in Springtime, when Autumn and Winter stores are getting used up. But, in modern times that practical reason does not apply, as we may now enjoy the fruits of the whole world, and therefore all the seasons, all the year round as long as we can afford them and choose to do so!

Fasting (refraining from something, especially food) is part of most Christian traditions for Lent. But Lent is not about making ourselves hungry for physical food or for anything else just for its own sake. Our Lent discipline is to help us with our inner lives, freeing ourselves from that which prevents us from flourishing spiritually.

It is a good time to use a discipline to support those less fortunate than ourselves - to which end you will be encouraged to start a **Lent Collection Jar** with any financial proceeds to be used for charitable purposes. These, and the Lent Lunch proceeds, will go to whatever PCCs decide to be appropriate. Labels for jars will be available next week.

### **Lent study and lunches:**

Face to face meetings and lunches have been fixed for Mondays - a simple soup lunch from 12.30pm and a meeting from 1.30-2.30pm. A number of people have excused themselves from the lunches but intend to be at the daytime meeting which, as advertised, will look at the Sunday collect and hymns.

As yet there has been no interest expressed in meeting remotely or otherwise for reflecting outside of the Monday sessions, but we may, in addition to the daytime sessions, be studying 'Being Human'. Books are available to review, but study will not require possession of a book. It will be for anyone interested in thinking about how to be a church in the times we inhabit. Written material to support it will be produced and distributed to anyone interested. Let Hilary know if this is you.

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

# ***NEWS FROM EVERTON***

**A repeat** - Concerns about the uneven floor of the central nave aisle are being addressed but will not provide immediate results. Please be aware and careful of the trip hazard which the loose and irregularly bedded tiles represent.

Urgent repairs are being put in place for the nave roof ridge near the tower end where lead has come loose, and the builders involved are being asked to look at the uneven floor.

**APCM** date has not been finalised but watch out for notices concerning it and the Electoral Roll which will close for new additions a fortnight before the meeting (compare below in Gamlingay information) - the APCM for Everton is likely to be in April, after Easter this year.

# ***NEWS FROM GAMLINGAY***

**Simple Lunch** was enjoyed by 14 people this last week. Donations of £51 were received, with much gratitude. The next lunch is on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> February.

**Churchyard** work at the weekend had to be aborted due to the indisposition of participants, but the plan remains to remove ragwort (so the meadow grass could be used for hay for horses). A meeting for those interested in the churchyard project, including all volunteers, is to be arranged soon. Please let Hilary or Alec know if you are interested in attending so that times can be arranged accordingly.

**The Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)** takes place on Sunday 3rd March, followed by lunch. There is a sign-up sheet in church for the lunch - all welcome, no charge! (Though donations for charity will be welcome).

The Electoral Roll is undergoing its annual revision and will be closed and published two weeks before the meeting, as required by law. Please contact Valerie Miller or speak to Hilary for more information on this.

Anyone on the Electoral Roll of the church is entitled to attend and vote at the meeting, which will report on the year 2023 Jan-Dec and may discuss plans for 2024. The election of Church Wardens takes place as a separate part of the meeting at the start, and any parishioner can attend and vote at this.

**Church Open** - At last the church will be open again. Thank you to the people who are contributing to the Rota for opening and closing, and to those who have worked on the process of making the building more secure.

We are trying to guarantee 10am-4pm daily, but these hours may vary, depending on the lives of those who are opening and closing.

## **FINAL REMINDER..... Electoral Roll Revision** - Gamlingay and Hatley

The electoral roll will be revised between 29th January and 12th February. If you are not on the electoral roll and would like to be please contact me for a form.

If you are already on the roll, you do not need to do anything unless you wish to come off or your name or contact details have changed.

Thank you,

*Valerie Miller Electoral Roll Officer*

## *Gamlingay Fundraising Matters...*

A few weeks ago, we asked you all to don your thinking caps and see if you could come up with some original ideas for fundraising events. It is fair to say that we haven't been overwhelmed with suggestions and are, therefore, repeating the plea in the hope that someone, somewhere just might have a flash of inspiration! If you would be prepared to plan and organise something yourself that would be wonderful, but any ideas for us to work on would be very welcome.



It would also be useful to know what sort of regular events you particularly enjoy and are most likely to take part in - e.g. quizzes, concerts, fairs, coffee mornings, cream teas, etc.

**Fundraising will be vital to our survival again this year so please help us out with some feedback.**

Email: [stmarysgamevents@outlook.com](mailto:stmarysgamevents@outlook.com) or speak to one of us at church.

**Open Gardens:** We have had a few offers from people willing to open their gardens to visitors on a day of their choice during the months of July and August. We need more! Please consider whether this is something you could do. It would simply be a case of welcoming visitors, perhaps showing them around and prominently displaying a bowl for donations. You may wish to offer refreshments as well, but this would be your choice entirely. Please let us know soon if you would like to take part. You don't have to have a 'Show Garden', just an open space which others might enjoy visiting.

### **APCM Lunch:**

Don't forget to let us know or add your name to the sign-up sheet in church, if you would like to join the lunch party following the APCM on 3<sup>rd</sup> March. All are welcome whether you have attended the meeting or not, though it would be great to see a good turnout at the meeting when important issues will need to be addressed. Lunch will consist of baked potatoes with a variety of toppings and accompaniments, apple crumble, tea/coffee.

### **Quiz Night:**

There will be another of our very popular 'Quiz Nights with Ian' in the Church Hall on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March.

Donations of raffle prizes for this event would be very welcome.

### **Coffee Morning:**

We will be holding a Coffee Morning with stalls and a raffle on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> April in the Church Hall. Further details to follow at a later date.

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*Well worth a visit next Saturday!*

## **The Big Blunham Book Sale**

Will be held on Saturday 17th February 2024. 10.00 am to 3.00 pm in Blunham Parish Church, MK44 3NQ, There will be an enormous selection of nearly new books - specialist and fiction sorted into categories. Homemade soup, homemade cakes, hot dogs, teas and coffees served all day. All profits to Blunham Church Fabric Fund. For further details please ring Sue and Peter Holden 01767 640572

## SERVICE INFORMATION

### Services for February

#### Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> February, Next Before Lent

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

#### Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> February, Ash Wednesday

9.30am Eucharist with optional ashes - Gamlingay  
7.30pm Eucharist with optional ashes - Everton

#### Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> February, Lent 1

9.30am Parish Eucharist with a healing theme at Gamlingay  
4pm Evensong at Everton

#### Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> February

9.30am Midweek Eucharist at Gamlingay welcoming Lucy back to preside.

#### Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> February, Lent 2

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

#### Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February

9.30am Midweek Eucharist at Gamlingay

### Services for March

#### Sunday and Festival services

#### Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> March, Lent 3

9.30am All Age Parish Eucharist at Gamlingay Followed by Gamlingay APCM in the Church Hall  
11.15am Parish Eucharist at Everton

#### Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March

9.30am Midweek Eucharist at Gamlingay

#### Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> March, Lent 4 - Mothering Sunday

9.30am Parish Eucharist at, Gamlingay  
11.15am Parish Eucharist at St. Mary's, Everton

#### Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March

9.30am Midweek Eucharist at Gamlingay

#### Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March, Lent 5

9.30am Parish Eucharist at Gamlingay with a focus on healing  
4pm Evensong at Everton

#### Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March

9.30am Midweek Eucharist at Gamlingay

#### Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March, Palm Sunday (Holy Week begins) - palm crosses distributed.

9.30am Liturgy of the Palms at Everton  
10am Liturgy of the Passion at Gamlingay

#### Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March

7.30pm Taize-style Compline at Gamlingay

#### Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> March

7.30pm Taize-style Compline at Hatley St George

#### Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March

7.30pm Taize-style Compline at Everton

#### Maundy Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March

7.30pm Maundy Eucharist with foot washing and reserve sacrament at Gamlingay

#### Good Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March

9.30am Good Friday reflections available in all three churches  
12-2pm Good Friday Watch service at Everton followed by....  
2pm Eucharist from reserve Sacrament at Everton.

#### Holy Saturday

Tbc 7.30 Vigil service and Service of Light at Gamlingay

#### Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> March: Easter Day - Easter Egg Hunts at all three churches after the services

8am Easter Communion at Hatley St George  
9.30am Parish Eucharist at St. Mary's, Gamlingay  
11.15am Parish Eucharist at St. Mary's, Everton