

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



Weekly newsletter 22 March 2024



From Hilary:

As Easter approaches, we begin our Holy Week with **Palm Sunday services** for the Benefice. We begin with the Liturgy of the Palms and distribution of Palm Crosses taking place at Everton at 9.30am, leaving that church in procession to enter Gamlingay church to the same music. Palm Crosses will be brought for anyone who comes to Gamlingay only but do please help one another to get to both services if possible (and back!). The Liturgy of the Passion dramatic presentation of the Passion story from St Mark's Gospel is in preparation, with a run-through in church on Saturday evening for those participants who can - time will be agreed among the 'cast'.

NEWS FROM GAMLINGAY

Simple Lunch on Tuesday at the Church Hall was enjoyed again - special thanks to Valerie for donation of a soup.

Churchyard: See Alec's report below - lots to do, more volunteers would be much appreciated.

Memory Lane on Tuesday 26th will be celebrating Easter - 2-4pm at the Ecohub.

THANK YOU and well done to Valerie for her lovely handmade Easter Cards, donations for which considerably augmented the collection plate on Sunday.

Churchyard Rewilding Project

A group of enthusiastic volunteers met in the churchyard on Saturday afternoon. The weather was kind so we were able to spend an hour or so inspecting the churchyard and identifying jobs that will need to be undertaken over the coming months. I won't go into detail here but would be happy to explain our plans to anyone who is interested.

Needless to say, more volunteers would be very welcome. It was agreed that the group would endeavour to meet, in the churchyard, on alternate Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. Starting this coming Saturday, 23rd March.

If you would like more information, please ask either Hilary or me.

Alec Hissett

NEWS FROM EVERTON

The APCM for 2024 takes place on 14th April (note correction of date) following the morning service, including a finger buffet lunch. Here is a reminder that the electoral roll is being revised. The revision will take place until the roll is published (and therefore closed) two weeks before the meeting, i.e. April 1st. Dick Edwards (Electoral Roll officer) Doreen Gurney or Hilary can provide forms to apply to be on the Roll, these to be returned to Dick who can also answer questions on the previous year's Roll.

Community Volunteers' Soup and Social took place this week at Everton Village Hall, well attended and much enjoyed as usual. The next one is on the Tuesday after Easter.

A big THANK YOU to the volunteers who have donated £30 towards the eggs for an Easter Egg hunt after church on Easter Day. This follows discussions about the possible combining of two egg hunts, there being one planned for church already.

GUILD OF ST MARY - AGM



The Guild of St. Mary held its Annual General Meeting on Monday last attended by 15 very enthusiastic and supportive current members. As is our custom, proceedings began with a short time of worship followed by very welcome refreshments and the business of the meeting.

Guild membership has fallen considerably over the last few years and the Committee felt the need to seek feedback from those who remain as to how much the Guild means to them and if/how they would like it to go forward. It was hugely reassuring to find unanimous support for continuing as a group and all agreed to do their best to encourage others to join. All those present felt that whilst we are very open to welcoming anyone from the wider community, our connection to St. Mary's and our grounding in the Christian faith is what makes us what we are and that should never change.

The Guild was originally formed through an amalgamation of the then Mothers Union and a Young Wives Club. It has continued to be a women's group but visiting men are always welcome at (and often do attend) our open meetings.

With fewer members, finances are becoming a little strained and it may be necessary to cut down on the number of speaker meetings but those occasions when we do have speakers are usually advertised as 'Open Meetings' to which any visitors are very welcome. We ask visitors to pay £5 which includes refreshments and a raffle ticket.

Our next meeting, with a speaker, will be on Monday 15th April, 7.30pm in the Church Hall. This should be an extremely interesting evening, hopefully appealing to a wide audience, so do please join us if you can. Steven Richards' talk is entitled: **"40 Years working for the BBC – a Sound Engineer's view"**.

SOS - We need shoeboxes!

Every year we collect and fill shoeboxes for the Link to Hope charity which sends them on to people living in impoverished and deprived areas of Eastern Europe in time for Christmas. If you buy new shoes, would you consider letting us have the box? (Normal sized boxes only please, boot boxes are too big.) Chris Wareham, our shoebox co-ordinator, would be very happy to relieve you of them!

We are a friendly bunch. Our activities range from the more serious and informative to the fun and frivolous. We meet in the Church Hall at 7.30pm on the third Monday of every month.

Why not give us a try – we'd love to see you!

SERVICE INFORMATION

Services for the rest of March

Sunday 24th March, Palm Sunday (Holy Week begins) - palm crosses distributed.

9.30am Liturgy of the Palms at St. Mary's, Everton
10am Liturgy of the Passion at St. Mary's, Gamlingay

Monday 25th March

7.30pm Taize-style Compline at Gamlingay

Tuesday 26th March

7.30pm Taize-style Compline at Hatley St George

Wednesday 27th March

9.30am Midweek Communion at Gamlingay
7.30pm Taize-style Compline at Everton

Maundy Thursday 28th March

7.30pm Maundy Eucharist with foot washing and reserving of sacrament at Gamlingay
Sacrament taken to Everton this year; altars stripped in all three churches.
Churches will be open for watch time for those who wish.

Good Friday 29th March

9.30am Good Friday reflections available in all three churches.
10am-12noon Good Friday Easter Gardens prepared in churches (to be decorated on Saturday)
12-2pm Good Friday Watch service at Everton followed by....
2pm Eucharist from reserve Sacrament at Everton.

Holy Saturday

Ashes interment at Everton

7.30pm Vigil Service and Service of Light at Gamlingay, with renewal of baptism vows and baptism of Willow Treverton-Black

Sunday 31st 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, followed by Easter Egg Hunt.
11.15am Parish Eucharist at St. Mary's, Everton, followed by Easter Egg Hunt.
11.30am Non-Eucharistic Easter service at Hatley St George TBC

Services for April

Sunday 7th April Easter 2 (First Sunday after Easter)

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

Sunday 14th April: Easter 3 (Second Sunday after Easter)

9.30am Parish Eucharist at St. Mary's, Gamlingay
11.15am Parish Eucharist at St. Mary's, Everton followed by APCM and lunch.

Sunday 21st April: Easter 4 (Third Sunday after Easter)

9.30am Parish Eucharist at St. Mary's, Gamlingay with a focus on healing
4pm Evensong at Everton

Sunday 28th April: Easter 5 (Fourth Sunday after Easter)

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



We will be closed on Monday 1st April (no joke!)

With effect from Monday the 8th April the Food Project will open on Monday afternoons between 2.30 & 4.30pm (not mornings). This is in response to suggestions from the public & we will, therefore, see how the village responds.

Please also remember our '2 Can' campaign, we have had some new regular giving but by no means enough. So, CAN U 2 CAN please?

Contact details below show who to contact in each parish:

Hilary Young , Parish Priest	hilaryafyoung@gmail.com	650587
Chris Miller , LLM/Reader	cfm55@btinternet.com	650779
Ann Davis , Churchwarden and Gamlingay/Hatley PCC Secretary	anngamlingay@aol.com	07970 076972
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
Alec Hissett	alechissett@hotmail.com	650052
Jane Butcher , Everton contact	Janebutcher59@googlemail.com	

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

**This week, we will have been publishing this newsletter for 200 editions!
Happy Anniversary to the benefice newsletter and thank you everyone for your continued contributions.**

*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.*