

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



## Weekly newsletter 14 February 2025



### *From Hilary:*

**A HUGE THANK YOU** to everyone who helped to provide for, and took part in, Norman's birthday celebrations this last weekend. You know who you are, your input was and is hugely appreciated. Norman thanks everyone for cards and good wishes, he is still enjoying the cards and gifts (despite requests otherwise, some did come in) and there will be an announcement in due course when all is added up, on the benefits to the churches from the donations made in lieu of gifts. Thank you again to everyone.

If anyone has pictures from the events, I would love to have copies, as I didn't have time to take any myself.

For those who were in church on Sunday morning and know that some of my family were prevented from being there to sing for Norman due to a medical 'emergency' - it turned out to be a spurious blood test result (well done to our two retired GPs who spotted the likelihood straight away when they heard what had happened). All but one of the family made it to the family meal we had arranged for Norman later, and the music in church went ahead with the ad hoc choir being mainly the Benefice choir. Well done and thank you to all those involved, for prayers, concern, and singing.

**This Sunday 16th February** continues the countdown to Lent (3 before). It used to be called Septuagesima (70 days before Easter) with a theme of right living, including the Beatitudes which turn the world's values on their head as Jesus teaches about the values of the Kingdom of God. [Click here for a copy of the 'Families 3 Before Lent'](#). We may nod to Valentine's Day which is Friday 14th, as this Newsletter is circulated, although there is not much evidence for the Christian root of this celebration of human love.

**The full revision of Church Electoral Rolls** continues in both parishes towards the APCMs coming up in the next few weeks. (See page 5 for full information.) [Click here for a copy of the application form.](#)

Gamlingay's meeting is on Sunday March 16th and Everton's is on Sunday April 6<sup>th</sup>. In both cases the meetings will follow Sunday services and include refreshments.

**Parish Share for 2025:** The PCCs of both parishes will be considering a very significant rise in the parish share this year, well above the small percentage rise of the Deanery share allocation which is then subdivided between the parishes. The increase is because parishes are now being asked to cover the real cost of ministry and Gamlingay with the Hatleys and Everton parishes have a full-time priest at the moment. The only other village parishes that have this luxury are the Paxtons, where considerable efforts are being made to raise the necessary finances.

There is likely to be considerable discussion on this topic at the Annual Meetings. Both parishes have paid the share this year, but with considerable effort, only just, and with some use of the very small reserves which the parishes hold in their unrestricted funds.

### **For Children and Families:**

Apologies for missing last week's material, this week will be looking at 'Blessings'. (Use the first link above.)

# LIVING HOPE



## Lent Study

Shrove Tuesday is on the 4<sup>th</sup> March and Ash Wednesday on the 5<sup>th</sup> March. We shall be following the C of E 'Living Hope' course which has a wealth of material available in support. The write up says it 'offers us the opportunity to deepen our hope in God and be part of what God is doing to bring hope in the world'.

In these uncertain times it makes real sense to explore what Christian hope means. As St Paul says in his first letter to the Corinthian church, 'Faith Hope and Love, these three abide'.

## NEWS FROM EVERTON

**Soup Lunch** takes place again this week, with a choice of 4 soups this time to go with the bread and cake.

## PCC News

Dorothy Jamieson (Bedfordshire and Cambs local historian) is helping to work on a Churches Trail to go with the Greensand Ridge Walk, a spin-off from the History Event which launched the community consultation now ongoing. Responses will be collected throughout the next month. The PCC is supported by Samuel Pedlar in analysing the survey he helped to produce.

**The Survey** (attached last week) takes you to on-line, or hard copy which can be printed and returned to Everton church or any of the PCC. It asks about the use of the church and is for everyone who has any connection, whether they live in Everton parish or not. As such, anyone in Gamlingay with Hatleys parish is most welcome to respond, as we are 'in it together' as a Benefice in terms of the use of our church buildings.

The PCC and other church members will be pleased to learn that a cheque from the Barnabas Oley fund for a grant of £1,500, awarded towards the end of last year, has arrived at the Rectory and will be heading for the church bank account shortly.

**Rest in Peace** Alan Pattle who we learned this week has sadly died in hospital after a fall in the care home where he was living. There is no further information on funeral arrangements at the time of going to press. Alan was a true Everton character and will be sadly missed.

## NEWS FROM GAMLINGAY

**Simple Lunch** took place this week. Special thanks to Ann's daughter Alice who came to help out as Hilary and Jane O were both involved in Tuesday's funeral. By all accounts it was a good session, with around a dozen participants. Also, many thanks for the £24.50 donations.

**PCC** met this week preparing the report for this year's APCM.

## Rest in Peace

Gwen Janes' funeral took place this week on 11<sup>th</sup> February at St Mary's, thank you to those who helped to make this work.

Jane Colebrook's funeral will have been on Thursday this week at 11am at St Mary's, hosted by us for Adrian at GBC where the service would have been if the building had been available.

**NB: Gamlingay with Hatleys APCM will be held after the service on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> March at 11am in the Church Hall. If you wish to be considered for the PCC, please let Hilary or Ann know, even if you cannot attend the meeting. Jane Orchiston**

## QUIZ NIGHT

**Friday 21<sup>st</sup> March, 7.30pm in Gamlingay Church Hall**

### **LAST CHANCE....**

to book in advance of it being publicised to the wider community!

Contact Jane on 07535005908 or speak to another member of the Task Group.

The usual rate of £5 per head will apply.

Teams to comprise a maximum of 6 – sole quizzers can be slotted into an ad hoc team.

## **Benefice Services and Church Events for February and March**

Midweek said Eucharist services take place at St Mary's in Gamlingay every Wednesday at 9.30am unless otherwise advertised.

### **Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> February: 3 Before Lent (Septuagesima)**

9.30am Eucharist at St. Mary's, Gamlingay with a focus on healing

4pm Evensong at St. Mary's, Everton

### **Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> February: 2 Before Lent (Sexagesimal)**

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

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

### **Sunday and Festival services in March**

#### **Sunday 2nd March: Sunday next before Lent (Quinquagesima)**

9.30am All-age Eucharist at St. Mary's, Gamlingay

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

#### **Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> March Ash Wednesday**

9.30am Ash Wednesday Eucharist at St. Mary's, Gamlingay with ashes

7.30pm Ash Wednesday Eucharist at St Mary's Everton with ashes

#### **Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> March: Lent 1**

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

11.15am Parish Eucharist with Baptism at St. Mary's, Everton

#### **Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> March: Lent 2**

9.30am Parish Eucharist at St. Mary's, Gamlingay with a focus on healing followed by APCM and lunch

4pm Evensong at St. Mary's, Everton

#### **Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> March: Lent 3**

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

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

#### **Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> March: Lent 4 - Mothering Sunday**

9.30am Parish Eucharist at St. Mary's, Gamlingay with posy distribution

11.15am Parish Eucharist at St. Mary's, Everton with posy distribution

*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.*

## GUILD OF ST MARY

The next Guild meeting will be on Monday 17th February, 7:30pm in the Church Hall when Eileen Thorpe, one of our members, will be talking about her recent trip to Peru, hopefully with photos. This will be an informal gathering of members but any visitors who might be interested in Eileen's presentation would be very welcome to join us.



The usual charges will apply - £3 for members and £5 for visitors to include refreshments and a raffle ticket.

<b>Hilary Young</b> , Parish Priest	<a href="mailto:hilaryafyoung@gmail.com">hilaryafyoung@gmail.com</a>	650587
<b>Chris Miller</b> , LLM/Reader	<a href="mailto:cfm55@btinternet.com">cfm55@btinternet.com</a>	650779
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**Please let Brenda Elcome have any articles or pictures for the newsletter by Wednesday afternoon 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.

***NB: The basic information in the document below is relevant to both Parishes in the Benefice but please note that completed application forms should be returned as follows:***

***For Gamlingay and Hatley:***

**Return by 16<sup>th</sup> February to Gamlingay Church or to Valerie Miller, Electoral Roll Officer for Gamlingay with Hatley St George and East Hatley [vjm55@btinternet.com](mailto:vjm55@btinternet.com) 01767 650779. [Click here for a copy of the form.](#)**

***For Everton:***

**Return by 16<sup>th</sup> March to Everton Church or to Dick Edwards, Stone Lodge, Everton Road Sandy SG19 2DE, or scan, and email to: [rje@stone-lodge.co.uk](mailto:rje@stone-lodge.co.uk)**

**Forms can also be obtained from and returned to Doreen Gurney at Manor Farm.**

## **Electoral Roll Revision 2025**

In every parish there must be a church Electoral Roll on which the names of lay (i.e. not clergy) persons are entered. In accordance with the Church Representation Rules, 2025 is a year in which an entirely new Electoral Roll must be prepared in advance of the Annual Church meeting in **every parish** in the Church of England.

Under the rules notice must be given in every church in the parish not less than two months before the Annual Meeting.

**Whether or not a person has their name entered on the existing Electoral Roll, anyone wishing to be enrolled on the new Roll must complete a new application.**

Under Church Representation Rules no one may be elected as a lay representative to a PCC or Deanery Synod, unless his or her name is on the Electoral Roll.

Under the Church Representation Rules, a lay person is entitled to have his or her name entered on the Roll, if the person – (a) is baptised, (b) is aged 16 or over, and (c) has made one of the following three declarations and duly applied for enrolment.

- The first declaration is that the person is a member of the Church of England or of a Church in communion with it and is resident in the parish.
- The second declaration is that the person is a member of the Church of England or of a Church in communion with it, is not resident in the parish, but has habitually attended public worship in the parish during the preceding six months.
- The third declaration is that the person is a member of good standing in a Church which is not in communion with the Church of England but subscribes to the doctrine of the Holy Trinity and is also a member of the Church of England and has habitually attended public worship in the parish during the preceding six months

The PCC of the parish of **Gamlingay with Hatley St George and East Hatley** has set the Annual Meeting for 16<sup>th</sup> March 2025.

The APCM at **Everton** has been set for 6<sup>th</sup> April 2025.

Forms may be obtained from the churches or from the named Electoral Roll officers – see above.

***(NB: A pdf copy of the application form is attached to this Newsletter. It will need to be printed off, filled in and returned as a hard copy. Alternatively, it could be scanned and returned by email – see email addresses above.)***