

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



Weekly newsletter 13 February 2026



From Hilary:

This Sunday is the last before Lent, with Ash Wednesday this coming week when the in-person Lent Study group meets for the first time. See below for details of that or other ways to engage in shared study in the Benefice during Lent. This Sunday the readings focus on the glimpses of the visible glory of God recorded in both the Old and New Testaments, before entering the penitential Lent season leading up to the great Easter festival.

LENT STUDY

The course we will be following is 'Draw Near', the official Church of England booklet for Lent 2026 described as follows:

'It invites you to develop a rhythm of life that will help you grow as a disciple of Christ day by day, especially as we prepare to celebrate the mystery of God's saving love at Easter. Each week a different contributor explores an activity central to Christian discipleship: worship, prayer, Scripture, communion, service to others and sharing the good news. For each day of Lent, it offers daily Bible readings, images, short reflections, prayers and practical responses to help you draw near to God this Lent and beyond.'

Booklets will be available from Ash Wednesday, email or otherwise contact Hilary to reserve one (donations of £3 welcome).

Face to Face Group will be meeting on Wednesday afternoons, 2.30 for 2.45pm, finishing by 4pm. The first meeting, on Ash Wednesday, will be at the Rectory. The themes of the 'Draw Near' course will be explored together, offering opportunity to go further using material available to support the course. Discussion in later sessions can include thoughts in the light of readings and reflections already undertaken. The first one will introduce the course and look at the theme of Worship. (*see next page*)

If there is anyone who can't make daytime face to face sessions but would like to reflect with at least one other person, please contact Hilary, Chris or Ann and we will see if we can organise something remotely.

Each week this Newsletter will carry a lead-in to the week's theme and may bring items from group discussions the previous week. There will also be the headings for the Families version of the 'Draw Near' course, which offers 40 acts for Lent. (*see next page*)



From Ash Wednesday to the first Sunday in Lent

The course booklet is set out around sharing in the Christian Way, on a journey through Lent. The first introductory theme is Sharing in Worship.

The prayer with which we set out is '*Jesus, you are the Way: Guide us on our journey*'.

In this first week we are reminded that worship is at the heart of Christian life, not just on Sundays, but all the time. Giving worth to God is fundamental to living life in Christ, not because God needs us in the way that humans can need to be praised and adored, but because our souls need to worship; it is part of what it is to be human. It is no mistake that the first commandments are about worship and acknowledging who God is. In one way worship is very personal, as is all of the Christian life, but in another way, as with all Christian life, it must be communal to be healthy. This is not to deny the value in some situations of solitary Christian life, but to acknowledge the truth, for which there are many illustrations, of the importance of being and doing with others to maintain health in body mind and spirit.

Lent in 40 Acts

Offers activities to help participants to bless, pause, share and include. These are all acts for other people, which of course also bless those who take part. Encouragement is to practice open-hearted sharing with others, offering comfort to someone who needs it, and practicing holding what we have lightly and being prepared to give what we have to those in need.

Ashes for Lent

I will be burning last year's palm crosses to make ash for Ash Wednesday. Any which are brought to church this Sunday will be included.

Traditionally many Christians receive a cross in ash on their foreheads as a sign of repentance at worship on Ash Wednesday, and there is opportunity to do so at a communion service in both our churches. At Gamlingay the midweek communion will be an Ash Wednesday Eucharist; at Everton there is a similar service at 7.00pm for those who can't make daytime worship. There will also be cards to use during Lent with an ash cross on them which can be collected from churches next Sunday, for those who cannot join worship on Ash Wednesday but would like to use this symbol.

Baptism and Confirmation

Might this be for you or someone you know? Easter is a traditional time for baptism and confirmation. In early times people wanting to become Christians were initiated into the faith by baptism at Easter, and also it was a time when those who had been excluded, or who had dropped away, could be brought back into the Church family. Lent was the preparation season. Easter is still a great time for baptisms and confirmations, so if any readers (or anyone readers know) would like to be baptised, or confirmed if that's appropriate, or even just want to explore what affirming a Christian faith might involve, please do be in touch with Hilary in the first instance to arrange a conversation and possible preparation. It would be lovely to have Easter Day or Easter Eve baptism(s) and there will be a confirmation service at the cathedral around Easter at which candidates can be presented from the local churches - some of our current congregation were confirmed at such a service a couple of years ago and would no doubt be pleased to talk about what that felt like for them.

NEWS FROM EVERTON

Churchyard: The Wildlife Report has been shared with the PCC, and also Gwyn Williams from Gamlingay who has been working with a group of trainee hedge layers under the supervision of National Trust experts. Gwyn's group has now graduated as 'capable' and negotiations are underway to work on the hedge surrounding the new churchyard extension in Everton.

NEWS FROM GAMLINGAY

Simple Lunch takes place this coming Tuesday - no promise of pancakes, but it is the day for it!

The PCC meets this coming week to continue the APCM report preparation. The Electoral Roll is also in preparation and will be closed on 14th February until after the APCM on March 8th.

APCM Sunday 8th March 'Bring-and-Share' Lunch

An opportunity to relax after the business of the meeting and enjoy each other's company over an informal lunch in the Church Hall. Just bring some food to add to the table and tuck into the selection on display. Tea and coffee will be available.

All welcome!

**Click [here](#) for an illustrated sheet on
transfiguration - being transformed by the
light of God's glory.**

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**Please let Brenda Elcome have any articles or pictures for the newsletter by Wednesday afternoon to
Brenda.elcome@gmail.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.

Benefice Services and Events

Midweek said Eucharist services take place at St Mary's in Gamlingay every Wednesday at 9.30am but watch for late cancellations especially during holiday seasons.

February

Sunday 15th February Sunday next before Lent

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

Wednesday 18th Ash Wednesday

9.30am Ash Wednesday Eucharist at St. Mary's, Gamlingay
7.00pm Ash Wednesday Eucharist at St. Mary's, Everton

Sunday 22nd First Sunday of Lent

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

March

Sunday 1st March: Lent 2

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

Sunday 8th March: Lent 3

9.30am Parish Eucharist at St. Mary's, Gamlingay followed by APCM and lunch
4.00pm Evensong at St. Mary's, Everton

Sunday 15th March: (Lent 4) Mothering/Refreshment Sunday

9.30am Parish Eucharist at St. Mary's, Gamlingay with posy distribution
11.15am Family Service (no Eucharist) at St. Mary's, Everton with posy distribution

Sunday 22nd March: Lent 5

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

Sunday 29th March: Palm Sunday (clocks forward) Holy Week Begins

9.30am Liturgy of the Palms at St. Mary's Everton
10.00am Liturgy of the Passion at St Mary's Gamlingay

7pm Taize-style Compline services in each of the Benefice churches as follows

Monday 30th March: Gamlingay TBC

Tuesday 31st March: Hatley TBC

Wednesday 1st April: Everton TBC

2nd April Maundy Thursday, Maundy Service with washing of feet and stripping of altars

7.00pm St. Mary's. Gamlingay.

April 3rd Good Friday: Memorials of the Crucifixion in the churches of the Benefice - details TBC

April 4th Holy Saturday

7.00pm Service of light and Renewal of Baptism Vows with Easter vigil readings

April 5th Easter Sunday, Festival Eucharist/Communion in all three churches

8.00am Hatley St. George
9.30am St Mary's, Gamlingay,
11.15am St. Mary's, Everton

*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.*