

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



Weekly newsletter 20 February 2026



From Hilary:

Lent has begun, with Ash Wednesday services in both churches and the Lent Study group meeting on the same day for the first time. Ashes were received by all who attended the services and cards with an ash cross and the word, reminding recipients of their mortality and encouraging repentance and faithfulness to Christ, are available in both churches for those who would like to keep this symbol. This Sunday, the first in Lent (and last in February!) brings a reminder of Jesus' temptations, and gives opportunity for all to reflect on the nature of temptation.

For the illustrated sheets on transfiguration – being transformed by the light of God's glory – use these links: [13th February](#) and [20th February](#).

LENT STUDY

The first group meeting of Lent took place at the Rectory this past Wednesday with nine participants looking at the first topic (Worship) in the Church of England Lent series 'Draw Near'. The connecting theme of the series is Sharing. The group is led by Chris and Hilary and may use elements from Paula Gooder's Lent book 'Lent Wise' which follows slightly similar themes of equipping, alongside the CofE material. Paula uses the metaphor of a journey for which directions, food, wisdom/light, shelter and refreshment are needed, exploring the ways in which Jesus provides these resources for those who trust in him.

This next week's 'Draw Near' theme is 'Sharing in Prayer'. Course booklets did not arrive on the delivery timetable promised; a complaint and refund on postage payment is in hand and the booklets will be given out to those who have asked for them when they arrive (surely by the weekend?). The group has been reminded that, for those able to use it, there is a free app which has the same Lent material. The app is called 'Every Day Faith' and is available for iPhone or android in the app store.

This week's theme of 'Worship' led the group to reflect on the relationship between prayer and worship - are they the same thing? There was exploration of the nature of sin, what it means to be sinful and is it the same for everyone? Considering the nature of forgiveness (and blame and vengeance) followed on, and how attitudes of godliness which are hard work at first can, like learning to drive a car, go from requiring constant thought and effort to becoming instinctive and automatic.

NEWS FROM EVERTON

Soup and Social took place this last week (school half term) with slightly fewer participants than usual but augmented by some families with children off school for half term. Despite the lower numbers all the soups were finished!

The Organ may have received a visit during the week.

The Clock is still working.

NEWS FROM GAMLINGAY

Simple Lunch took place on Tuesday with thirteen people present, donations of £33 were gratefully received.

The PCC meets this coming week (not last week as erroneously given here) to continue the report preparation. The Electoral Roll is also being revised and is now closed until after the APCM on March 8th.

Edward Nobes a former parish priest (before the Benefice was formed) is remembered this week as one of his daughters (name in the church visitors' book) is gravely ill, and her daughter Jessica has visited the parish to follow up links.

RIP

Funeral of Wendy Bateman takes place on Monday at 11 am at Arbory Trust Green Burial Gound.

Funeral of Josephine (Jose) Chandler will take place at St Mary's on Monday 2nd March at 11am

QUIZ NIGHT

Many thanks to everyone who supported last Friday's Quiz night. The evening was great fun and a total of £492.00 was raised for St Mary's funds.

We are, as always, extremely grateful to Ian Parker for being our wonderful (if highly challenging!) Quizmaster.

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!

The Big Blunham Book Sale

Will be held on Saturday 28th February 2026. 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

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

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 22nd First Sunday of Lent

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

March/Easter

Sunday 1st March: Lent 2

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

Monday 2nd March

2pm Funeral of Josephine (Jose) Chandler at St. Mary's Gamlingay.

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 to be held in each of the Benefice churches as follows:

Monday 30th March: Gamlingay)
Tuesday 31st March: Hatley) All TBC
Wednesday 1st April: Everton)

Thursday 2nd April: Maundy Thursday 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 at Gamlingay

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.*

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