

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



Weekly newsletter 6 March 2026



From Hilary:

This third Sunday of Lent sees reflections on “water of life” at the morning service in Gamlingay, which will be followed by the Annual Parochial Meeting. The service at Everton is, therefore, in the afternoon and will be the monthly Evensong moved from the 3rd to the 2nd Sunday. The following week there will be a morning service for Refreshment (Mothering) Sunday, which marks a break in the Lent fast.

Deanery and Diocesan Synods – both meet in March.

Deanery Synod will have taken place this Wednesday with Archdeacon Richard present and will have looked at Deanery finances (no Deanery Treasurer at the moment is an issue) and the Deanery Plan - which includes reflections on distribution of clergy in the Deanery.

Diocesan Synod takes place on the morning of Saturday 14th in Ely, report to follow. This year's budget will be under discussion.

Scythe Care: A niche interest meeting takes place at Haslingfield on the morning of Saturday 27th March for those with scythes. It will be an opportunity to sharpen and set up these tools for the new season. There will be a taster session later in the Spring for anyone interested in learning the skill of using a scythe - an important grassland management tool where wildlife is a priority (much greener and more wildlife friendly than a strimmer!).

LENT STUDY

The group meeting on Wednesdays at the Rectory was led by Hilary this last week (second full week of Lent) seeking to Draw Near this time on the topic of Sharing Scripture.

After sharing some outcomes from the previous week's topic on Prayer, alongside the daily reflections of the booklet for this week, the group looked at Jesus' meeting with the people of his time following the feeding of the five thousand in John 6.25-35 using the translation by Paula Gooder in her Lent series. Thoughts were shared on using the Bible, in what way scripture can ‘feed’ us and what the Bible is, whether the Bible contradicts itself, how much we need one another in reading scripture, and methods of using Scripture. The method of Holy Reading (Lectio Divina) was revised, and the group will use the passage studied to try the method out this week. (*See next page*)

This next week's topic is ‘Sharing Communion’ which explores what we really need as human beings, leading on from the topic of spiritual nourishment considered previously. The prayer is;

‘Lord God, you renew us with the loving bread from heaven: by it you nourish our faith, increase our hope and strengthen our love: teach us always to hunger for him who is the living bread, and enable us to live by every word that proceeds from out of your mouth; through Jesus Christ our Lord Amen’

LECTIO DIVINA

The Four Key Movements of Lectio Divina

- *Lectio (Read): Read a short scripture passage slowly and deliberately, allowing a word or phrase to capture your attention.*
- *Meditatio (Reflect): Reflect on the chosen word or phrase, letting it resonate within your life and heart.*
- *Oratio (Respond/Pray): Engage in a conversation with God, speaking to Him about what the text has stirred up in you.*
- *Contemplatio (Rest): Rest in silence, simply being in God's presence, allowing the Word to take root within.*

How to Practice Lectio Divina

- *Preparation: Choose a quiet, comfortable space and a short scripture passage (e.g., a Gospel passage or a Psalm).*
- *Procedure: Read the passage through several times (usually aloud, then silently).*
- *Flexibility: The practice is more about a "rhythm of listening" than a rigid set of rules; it can last as long as needed.*
- *Goal: The focus is on allowing the scripture to shape you inwardly, not to analyse it*

Reminder - change to original plans

The **Holy Saturday** celebrations service planned for the parishes here will now transfer to the Cathedral as candidates from our Benefice will be confirmed that day.

There will be a service in all three of the Benefice churches on Easter morning. Holy Week services are still being discussed with musicians; Good Friday in particular is not settled yet but is likely to be a two hour mediation with music followed by the final hour Good Friday Liturgy with communion from reserve sacrament - all at Gamlingay, with meditations available at the other two churches TBC.

NEWS FROM GAMLINGAY

Simple Lunch took place this last Tuesday with 13 people present and donations (thank you donors!) of £27.25.

The APCM follows the Sunday service this week. [The report](#) has been circulated and will be presented and comments taken at the meeting, which will also elect Church Warden(s) and PCC members, as well as Deanery Synod representatives.

Forms are in church to nominate PCC and churchwardens. Nominations can also be taken at the meeting but nominated candidates must have signed to say they are willing to stand if being elected in their absence.

RIP:

The funeral of Alec Charles Deeble RIP is being arranged to take place at St Mary's on Thursday 26th March at 1.30pm followed by burial in St Mary's Field cemetery. Thoughts and prayers are with the family.

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!

NEWS FROM EVERTON

Soup and Social took place this last week and was the usual success.

The PCC is still looking for a date when those involved can meet. Business, as mentioned last time, will include: a date for the APCM (which will be in April after Easter), preparation of the Annual Report, services, buildings project and various essential maintenance considerations.

This Sunday Evensong replaces the usual 2nd Sunday service. Next week, for Mothering Sunday, there will be an All Age 'Service of the Word' with posies distributed and refreshments.

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Please let Brenda Elcome have any articles or pictures for the newsletter by Wednesday afternoon 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.



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.

March

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

April/Easter

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 – TBC

12-2pm Gamlingay St Mary guided reflections followed by.....
2.00pm Final hour Good Friday liturgy with communion from reserve sacrament

April 4th Holy Saturday

8.00pm Easter Vigil with Baptism and Confirmation at Ely Cathedral

April 5th Easter Sunday, Festival Eucharist/Communion in all three churches with Easter Egg hunts.

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

Sunday 12th April: Easter 2 (first Sunday after Easter)

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

Sunday 19th April: Easter 3 (second Sunday after Easter)

9.30am Parish Eucharist with healing time at St. Mary's, Gamlingay
4.00pm Evensong at St. Mary's, Everton

Sunday 26th April: Easter 4 (third Sunday after Easter)

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