

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



Weekly newsletter 27 March 2026



From Hilary:

With the fifth Sunday of Lent behind us **Holy Week** begins with **Palm Sunday** on 29th March. It is the day when **British Summer time begins, and clocks go forward**, so it will feel like an earlier start for the Benefice celebrations which begin with the Liturgy of the Palms at Everton. Palm crosses will be blessed and distributed at that service, then brought to Gamlingay to the following service where they will also be distributed.

The Liturgy of the Passion at Gamlingay includes a long passion Gospel reading in the Eucharist. Thank you and well done to the people who have offered to read voices in the dramatised version we will be using; the run-through on Wednesday after the midweek communion service was most useful.



LENT STUDY

The group meeting on Wednesdays at the Rectory was led by Chris this last week on the topic of 'Sharing the Good news' exploring the ways in which Christians are called into openness, showing and living out hospitality in all its forms. Chris writes:

We began by considering the differences between Christ as the door (or gate) and the shepherd and examining how and when we might open the door for him. We then thought about being loved and loving others. Finally, we talked about humility and how others see us as Christians both in our community and the workplace. We considered the situation of children and the importance of trust and the message that "whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it".

The Lent study we are following includes Holy Week, so there is a meeting next Wednesday to reflect on sharing in Holy Week, with thoughts on humility, obedience, compassion, servanthood, courage and love.

'Almighty God, as we stand at the foot of the cross of your Son, help us to see and know your love for us, so that in humility, love and joy we may place at his feet all that we have and all that we are, through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen'

For the illustrated sheets on transfiguration – being transformed by the light of God's glory – use these links:
[15th February](#) [22nd February](#) [1st March](#) [15th March](#) [22 March](#) [29th March](#)

From Bishop Dagmar...

Good Friday Offering for the Diocese of Jerusalem

On behalf of *The Jerusalem and the Middle East Church Association*, I invite you and your parishes (PCCs will need to discuss this) to dedicate a Good Friday Offering to support the Diocese of Jerusalem's Gazan hospital (the Al Ahli Hospital), and to join together in prayer for our brothers and sisters in the Holy Land.

The Diocese of Jerusalem has for over 150 years played a pivotal cultural and political role in the region, providing a witness to the love of Christ through their parishes and institutions. Tragically the Christian presence is under threat in the region, when the presence of the Church, witnessing to the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, is needed more than ever to serve and pray for those communities experiencing a fragile ceasefire in Gaza and the increasing difficulties in the West Bank. The Diocese of Jerusalem - and the Church at large in the region - needs our prayer and support to enable it to continue amid such difficulties. These have only increased since the recent outbreak of war between the US, Israel and Iran. The Al Ahli hospital in Gaza is the only Christian hospital in Gaza. It fearlessly continues to serve all (Ahl) in Gaza, despite five bomb attacks during the war. At the ceasefire it was operating at more than double its normal capacity. Funds are needed for staff salaries, as well as medical supplies, generator fuel and, of course, repairs. For details, please see [here](#).

HOW TO DONATE

Bank Transfer: Jerusalem and the East Mission Trust Ltd account at Coutts bank,
Sort code 18-00-02, Account number 03283534 Ref: GFO2026

Cheques: payable to "JMECA" and marked GFO2026, sent to the Operations Manager, JMECA, [1 Hart House, The Hart, Farnham, Surrey GU9 7HJ](#)

Individuals can make online donations (including Gift Aid) online via [the JMECA CAF link](#)

Holy Week Final Reminders

Taize services, each at 7pm, will take place in one of the three churches of the Benefice from Monday through Wednesday (*see back page*). The format of the service will follow the order of Compline.

Maundy Thursday

Thank you to those who have let Hilary know they will be at the meal at 6pm in the Church Hall. Help setting up beforehand would be welcome; thank you to one person for the offer of baked potatoes. There will also be roast lamb and ratatouille, coleslaw and cheese, with wine and soft drinks. The meal will prepare for the service that follows in church remembering Jesus' last meal and its connection with Passover in the context of hospitality and a time for reflection. It will be helpful to know numbers, and any offers of help setting up, clearing away and producing the accompaniments to the lamb will be welcome, though not essential. Please contact Hilary directly to let her know you are attending and with any offers of help.

NB The service is at Gamlingay at 7.30pm (not 7pm as has been inadvertently advertised previously) remembering the Last Supper and Jesus' giving of the Holy Communion. The sacrament will be reserved for Good Friday communion, the altars stripped and the church left bare of decorations for Good Friday. Altars will be stripped in the other churches too and a vigil will be observed This has been traditional in Gamlingay - please sign up to say if/when you would like to be part of that between the end of the service and midnight)

Good Friday there will be a three-hour worship time in Gamlingay, with two hours of reflections and music from 12 noon until 2pm, followed directly by the final hour Good Friday liturgy.

Meditations on the cross will be available in Hatley and Everton for personal or collective use in the morning for those who wish to worship in their local church.

Holy Saturday worship for our parishes will be at the Cathedral where Keith Miller and his daughter Ivy will be confirmed at the service. Our new Easter candles will be lit for the first time there, to be brought into churches for the morning services.

Easter Day: There will be a service in all three of the Benefice churches followed by Easter Egg hunts.

NEWS FROM EVERTON

Soup and Social takes place this coming week on the Tuesday of Holy Week.

The PCC met last Thursday, confirming the date for the APCM and making plans for the Annual Report and Electoral Roll revision.

The usual **revision of the Roll** takes place from this Sunday, new members are invited to apply. The Roll will be displayed and closed on the Sunday after Easter (the week before the APCM), after which time corrections only can be made with no new additions until after the APCM. Anyone on the Roll will remain unless they wish to be removed (Contact Doreen Gurney)

NEWS FROM GAMLINGAY

Simple Lunch will take place on the Tuesday after Easter, as there seemed to be general willingness and appreciation for that to happen.

Funeral of Alec Charles Deeble RIP took place at St Mary's on Thursday; many thanks to those who helped with this service.

The Memory Lane group met at the EcoHub and decorated eggs for Easter over tea and cake and friendly time together. One or two regulars were missing. The group would love to welcome new members so do consider who you might encourage to be there or take a friend who would benefit. The eggs will be on show in church by request of the makers.



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.

March and April/Easter

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

Monday 30th March

7pm Taizé-style compline service at St. Mary's, Gamlingay

Tuesday 31st March

7pm Taizé-style compline service at Hatley St. George

Wednesday 1st April

7pm Taizé-style compline service at St. Mary's, Everton

2nd April Maundy Thursday

6.00pm Reflective meal at Gamlingay Church Hall –
(numbers to Hilary by Monday evening please.)
7.30pm Maundy Eucharist Service with washing of feet and stripping of altars at Gamlingay

April 3rd Good Friday: Memorials of the Crucifixion in Everton and Hatley St. George

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 (Churches decorated for Easter)

8 pm Easter Vigil with Baptism and Confirmation at Ely Cathedral
Service available to view on the internet live and recorded.

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
4.00pm Evensong at St. Mary's, Everton (NB a week earlier than usual, swap to allow APCM)

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

9.30am Parish Eucharist with healing time at St. Mary's, Gamlingay
11.15 Parish Eucharist at St. Mary's, Everton, followed by APCM at the Village Hall

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.*

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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.