

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



Weekly newsletter 24 April 2026



From Hilary:

Although I have not been entirely 'off duty' this past week, it has been one in which I've taken time for myself and my family, not having done so immediately following all the business of Holy Week and Easter. This doesn't mean a Sunday off from worship but I am grateful to Chris for taking on the preaching for this coming Easter season Sunday. It does mean that next week's newsletter may carry more than this one about future plans (not much has moved since last week, with the Everton APCM taking central place in work commitments). NB: Several events in May which are currently under consideration can't be advertised at this point but will, I hope, be finalised during the coming week - in particular, the worship for Trinity Sunday; what will happen for Rogation; and what will be offered for worship at Ascension.

Churchyards

Well done and thank you to the people who have been working in the churchyards. Plans are shaping up for scything sessions all through the Summer and a hedging session at Everton in the Autumn. In addition, paths are being looked after by congregation members in the parish churches, and Spring flowers are on show. The newly introduced cowslips at Gamlingay narrowly escaped the inappropriate cut earlier and will now hopefully reproduce and spread – the hedge and roadside ones are wonderful this year. It is also wonderful to see the saxifrage in flower once more in Everton churchyard.



Thrive

Use these links to download this week's Thrive [transfiguration] sheet ([26th April](#)) and for last week's ([19th April](#)).

For copies of the six previous sheets (from 15th February), see the newsletter of [27th March](#).

NEWS FROM EVERTON

Soup and Social takes place this coming Tuesday with soup from Hilary

The APCM took place last Sunday, 19th April. It followed the morning service, with the APCM report produced for the day. That report is herewith circulated for those who were not at the meeting, which, although very sparsely attended, was very positive, looking to the future and celebrating what has begun with the buildings group. More details next time.

NEWS FROM GAMLINGAY

Simple Lunch took place last Tuesday, 21st with less than half the attendance of the previous time. It was, nevertheless, much appreciated by those who were present. Ten participants, which included helpers, made the £29.60 donations gift-aid reclaimable, thank you to everyone involved.

Memory Lane will take place this coming Tuesday 28th, 2-4pm at the Ecohub. No decision on activity this time, although the usual refreshments and fellowship will be available with games and a craft activity of some sort. Tai Chi will be another time now.



How did Priests in Medieval times cheat when standing for long periods of time during services?



What device did they use to tell them when it was time to start the service?

How did the builders keep track of their working hours?

How did St. Mary's Church evolve into the magnificent building it is today?

What are the various objects inside the church actually for?

Join one of our Discovery Day tours on Saturday 9th May and find out the answers to all these questions and many more. Afterwards relax with tea/coffee and homemade cakes.

At the time of writing there are several places left for the morning group but only one for the afternoon. Book now to avoid disappointment!

ST. MARY'S CHURCH GAMLINGAY

'DISCOVERY DAY'

Saturday 9th May - Morning: 10am or Afternoon: 2.30pm

How much do you know about Gamlingay's beautiful, ancient Parish Church?

Thanks, in large part, to Philip Gorton's extensive research and recording during his years with us, we are able to share some fascinating insights into the construction, past use, adaptations and idiosyncrasies of the building. Both groups will be led by David Elcome who has become very knowledgeable about the building itself, and Valerie Miller who will talk about the various service-related items to be found inside.

COME AND JOIN A GUIDED TOUR – you may be surprised about what you discover!

Even some of our regular church attenders may be unaware of all its hidden secrets.

Afterwards, enjoy tea/coffee and home-made cakes, in the church or outside if the weather allows.

Inclusive cost: £10 per head payable in advance.

Each group will be limited to 12 participants and places must be pre-booked either by email: brenda.elcome@ymail.com or by phone: 01767 650489

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

The Guild of St. Mary

On Monday 20th April members of the Guild of St. Mary and visitors enjoyed a wonderfully worthwhile, interesting and informative talk, demonstration and practical exercise in the use of CPR, defibrillators and ways to help someone who is choking. All 19 of those present found it valuable and in spite of (in many cases) advanced years, creaky joints and difficulty getting up from the floor, most had a go at resuscitating one of the life-sized dummies brought along for the purpose.

We are all now much better informed about the use of defibrillators and the most effective and safe ways of dealing with choking. We learned the special techniques for dealing with children and babies and even had dummy babies to practice on.

The three St. John Ambulance volunteers who led the session gave us a very enjoyable presentation for which we are extremely grateful, and we were happy to give them a donation of £50.



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.

April

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

May

Sunday 3rd May: Easter 5 (4th Sunday after Easter)

9.30am Parish Eucharist at St. Mary's, Gamlingay with Baptism of Tobias Elijah Seaman

11.15am Parish Eucharist at St. Mary's, Everton with Baptism of Owen Harry Christian-Allan

Sunday 10th May: Easter 6 (5th after Easter) Rogation Days Monday-Wednesday

9.30am Shared Parish Eucharist at St. Mary's, Gamlingay. led by Revd. Rachel Blanchflower

Thursday 14th May: Ascension Day Service(s) TBC

Sunday 17th May: Easter 7 (Sunday after Ascension)

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

4.00pm Evensong at St. Mary's, Everton

Sunday 24th May: Day of Pentecost - Whit Sunday

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

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

Sunday 31st May: Trinity Sunday - Festival services at ? all three churches

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

11.15am Parish Eucharist at St. Mary's, Everton – under discussion, may be shared with Gamlingay

6.00pm Informal Evening Service of music for Trinity Sunday at Hatley St. George.

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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