

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



Weekly newsletter 22/29 May 2026



From Hilary:

This Newsletter covers both the coming Sunday - Pentecost/Whitsun, and the following one for Trinity Sunday. Trinity Sunday is the last festival before the long summer ordinary (ordered) time season which leads into the remembering and thanksgiving time at the end of the year, when we have Harvest, All Saints/All Souls and Remembrance Sunday before the new Church Year begins again in Advent.

Those who are on the PCCs and/or were in church last Sunday will have received the announcement of my retirement at the end of July, brought forward from the originally intended date in January when I turn 70 at which point, in the normal order of things, I would have been due to retire unless granted a special extension. The decision to retire sooner is in response to circumstances of health - Norman's primarily, but my own too. Alongside these considerations there is also a desire to be a good hands-on Granny with a new grandson due in mid-June. Between these things it has been necessary to do some quite quick thinking and planning, and I am grateful for the support I have received in making that possible. I am still trying to get used to the idea that I will not, as I had expected, be in active ministry in the parishes here in the Autumn, never mind at Christmas! There is a real sense of bereavement that comes over me on occasions, at the same time as having little opportunity to think about that as I work with the PCCs and others to enable as good a transition as possible into vacancy and beyond. As + Dagma says in her departure message, and Chris Miller quoted at our PCC, clergy come and go, but the mission of the church continues. I am confident that the Almighty has everything in hand; our task is to join in with all our being to do our part, whatever that may be, even if it is not what we'd originally planned or expected. May God bless us all in this time.

Sunday past (Rogation)

Rogation prayers and the Bell Sunday hymn in the context of a service of wholeness and healing at Gamlingay turned out to be very appropriate alongside the announcement of my retirement.

Thanks and prayers for the flourishing of many aspects of human endeavour and the natural world were offered by five of us on the Rogation walk between the churches, and there was time for a refreshment stop at the pub in Everton before further refreshments at the church and a moving Evening Service with a rogation theme led by Chris.



Christian Aid Collection

This has been much limited compared with previous years, but it is not too late to offer contributions from the Benefice. Nick, at Gamlingay, will be returning funds collected and news of the total will be available in due course, probably in the next Newsletter.

This Sunday- Pentecost/Whitsun

There are morning services at both parish churches as members of the Body of Christ celebrate its coming into being with the empowering of the first disciples by the Holy Spirit. That event began the worldwide movement called Church, so it is a birthday.

Next Sunday - Trinity Sunday - Please note the change to plans.

Festival celebrations will now be offered at Gamlingay **as a Benefice service at 10am.** The original plan to celebrate the festival in both Gamlingay and Everton churches has had to be changed due to shortage of personnel. **There will also be an informal music service at Hatley St George, with Taizé chants, celebrating the Trinity.** This central tenet of the Christian Faith, as expressed by the Church, tries to encompass the enormity and breadth of who God is alongside the recognition of personal connection with humanity. Those who work on the lectionary (the set readings for the year) at one time, when I was young, tried to make Pentecost the end of the celebration of Jesus' life, death and resurrection. However, an older pattern, which then adds in a celebration of the Trinity, is again our current pattern. This is probably as an expression of the need to remember that God is more than the person Jesus, although the person of Jesus shows us most fully who God is. I am reminded that we are never at our best when limiting our thinking to that to which we can put a formula. Useful as those things can be, they are not enough.

Services in July

Service arrangements in July will very likely be different from the usual pattern, as preparations are being made for services in the vacancy. Hilary's last Sunday will be 26th July, although there may be special services before that. School holidays will have started by then and it is known already that some Deanery personnel will not be available in the last two weeks of July.

Green Week in June – more information to follow.

Diana Cook, Diocesan Adviser for biodiversity and churchyards writes:

Sometimes I am surprised to discover that there are still churches unaware of the CofE Synod's Land and Nature motion of Feb 2024, see below. Very simply, it asks all churches to manage their land for biodiversity and the natural world. This includes creating a summer flower area! (N.B. The Churchyard Conservation Award requirements meet the Synod's requirements, so all the help you might need is available.)

2024 Synod Motion

That this Synod, recognising the need to respond urgently to the ecological crisis, in line with the global scientific consensus that the climate change and biodiversity loss crises are intricately linked, call on all parishes with land they manage or influence to:

- create a simple land management plan, with reference to the guidance and examples from Caring for Gods Acre,*
- work towards an increasing level of Eco Church, including the actions in the 'Land' section and*
- record the biodiversity of their green spaces, through taking part in Churches Count On Nature each year.*

NEWS FROM EVERTON

Thank you to Dorothy for sharing this lovely prayer which has meant so much to her recently...

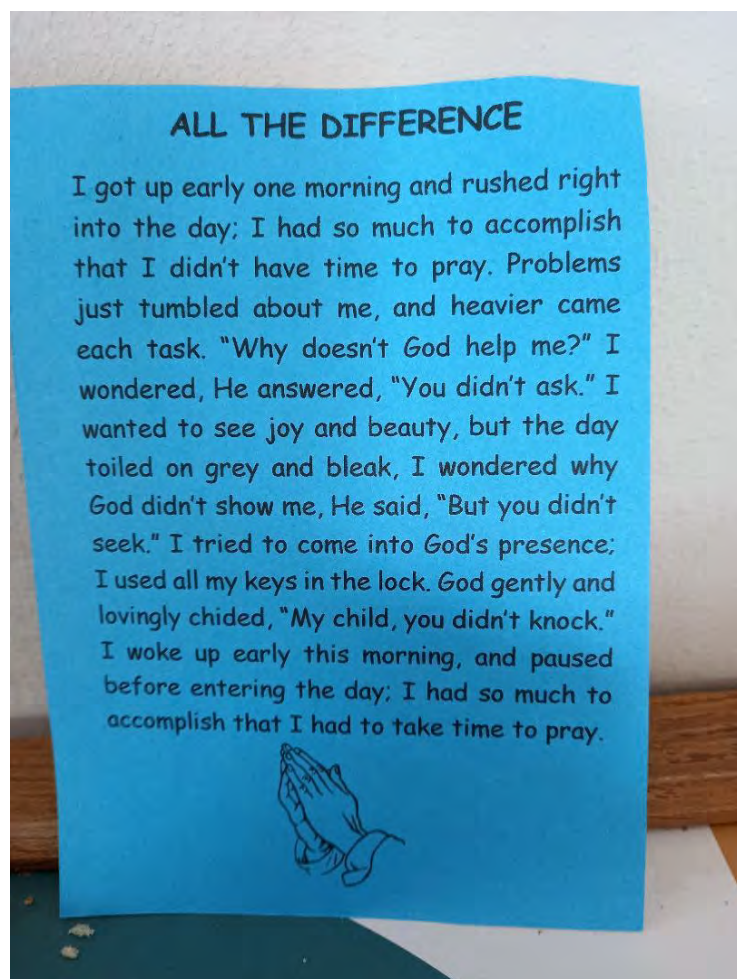
Soup and Social takes place next week.

Everton PCC met on Monday with a full agenda which did not include preparations for the vacancy. This will be covered on 1st June at a shared PCC meeting with Gamlingay and Hatley PCC. Discussions included an update on the developing Friends group and plans for publishing information on the churchyard to enable appropriate community participation in its care as befits its status as a consecrated burial ground under the auspices of the Church of England and a designated conservation area.

Jane Butcher writes:

A huge thank you to everyone who came along to support our Spring Coffee Morning held last Saturday, in the Village Hall. Although the first hour was rather slow, things began to pick up and thanks to everyone's generosity we raised just over £500 for much needed Church Funds.

Many thanks from the Church Coffee Morning Fund Raising Team.



NEWS FROM GAMLINGAY

Simple Lunch took place this last Tuesday with slightly fewer people than sometimes, but plenty of food! Grateful thanks for the £30 which was donated by those who attended.

Gamlingay PCC met on Monday evening and discussed a full agenda avoiding duplication with work to be done on 1st June with Everton PCC. A key item was the news from The Friends of St. Mary's and how their funds would be administered if the charity were to be wound up, as was discussed at the Annual Meeting of the Friends. A meeting is to be instigated with Samuel Pedlar from the Diocese and the PCC, with Friends trustees invited to join in.

The Churchyard has been inappropriately mown again. Representation is being made to the Parish Council whose contractors have been responsible. The upkeep of paths has fallen behind in recent weeks with shortage of personnel for the Wednesday afternoon 'tidies' previously advertised. Ann, Hilary and Eileen have made a difference in places, when time and weather allowed. It seems that a fixed weekly time to meet up is not working, so an agreement to do what's necessary whenever suits those willing to help is being drawn up. Please contact Hilary or Ann if you can assist - every little helps, as they say!

SUMMER COFFEE MORNING

Saturday 6th June – 10.30 – 12.30 – Gamlingay Church Hall

Our next fundraising event is a Coffee Morning which is taking the place of the usual Summer Fete which, for a variety of reasons, we are unable to undertake this year. Please come along and support the event and encourage friends and neighbours to join us as well.

CAN YOU HELP IN ANY OF THE FOLLOWING WAYS?

*We will be setting up on Friday 5th June at 3pm – please come and help if you can.
Helpers will also be needed to clear everything away afterwards.*

We are, as always, relying on our wonderful bakers for a supply of cakes both for the refreshments and for selling to take away.



*There will be a few stalls for which donations are requested as follows:
Items suitable for a Tombola.
Raffle prizes
Plants
Bric-a-Brac- good quality items only please!*



NB: Cakes and Plants can be brought to the Church Hall after 3pm on the Friday or early on Saturday morning. Other donations can be brought to church on Sunday or left in Jane's porch at 61 Fairfield.

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.

May

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

10am Benefice Service at St. Mary's, Gamlingay **NB: Note the change**
6pm Informal Evening Service of music for Trinity Sunday at Hatley St. George.

June

1st – 14th June: Diocesan Safeguarding Awareness Campaign 'Its not just policy, its personal'

Saturday 6th June

10.30 – 12.30 Summer Coffee Morning, Gamlingay Church Hall

Sunday 7th June: Trinity 1 (Hilary on leave)

9.30am or 10am time and location TBC - Benefice Eucharist conducted by Revd Rachel Blanchflower

Sunday 14th June: Trinity 2 (Hilary on Leave) Services tbc

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

Sunday 21st June: Trinity 3

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

Sunday 28th June: Trinity 4

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.*

St Mary's St Neots, Mothers Union

We support local families who are in need –
to have an

‘Away From it All Holiday’

‘AFIA’



We raise funds to send a family to the
Coast for a free holiday—making for them
special memories for the future

**Do you know of a family in need, or
difficulty that may be able to take up this
offer?**

**Contact: Catherina Griffiths– Branch Leader at
St Neots Mothers Union—via The Parish Office**

01480-370312

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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.