

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



Weekly newsletter 19 June 2026



From Hilary:

As things have worked out, I haven't really been on 'leave', although I have taken some time to be in our new home and haven't conducted the Wednesday midweek services. This last Sunday at Everton was rather special, and I am most grateful to Jonathan for that. It was no hardship to be conducting services despite it not being the original plan.

Please pray for the combined churches' Standing Committee as it meets this next Monday to establish its ways of working and, in particular, how services can be arranged into the vacancy at the end of July and beyond. There will be lots more about that next week, watch this space!

This Sunday is also special for two reasons. The first is particular to our Benefice when Valerie Miller is to be reauthorised as ALM (Pastoral). The second is special for the whole Diocese as the Bishop of Ely is installed at the Cathedral - see below more about both events.

Last Sunday Admission of Church Wardens

The service and swearing-in of Church Wardens took place at Ely Cathedral, with our Wardens Ann Davis (Gamlingay), Jane Butcher and Jonathan Kirkham (Everton) in attendance. We continue to be grateful to these individuals for being willing to take on this responsibility.

Installation of the Bishop of Ely

This will take place in a service which two of us from the Benefice will be attending. It is a ticketed event with representatives from parishes across the Diocese as well as many others - one cannot just turn up! From this date +Sarah formally takes up residence and duties in the Diocese. We pray for her and all who will work with her, that this will be a fruitful and fulfilling time of ministry and that the Kingdom may flourish. We pray to be generous and visible people of Jesus Christ.

NEWS FROM EVERTON

Soup and Social is this next week - Hilary may not be in attendance this time,

NEWS FROM HATLEY ST GEORGE

A useful meeting took place last week to consider action for work on the church. More to follow on this.

A 'last service at Hatley' for Hilary is being discussed - what form this should take, times and days not yet decided - do be in touch with any thoughts.

NEWS FROM GAMLINGAY

Simple Lunch took place last Tuesday. Participants were asked and confirmed that they would like these lunches to continue. Hilary will be in attendance with a soup during July, unless prevented from doing so unexpectedly. Thank you to all those who help out with this event.

Memory Lane meets this coming Tuesday.

Valerie's Reauthorisation and Safeguarding

As many, or even most, will know Valerie Miller was among those from Gamlingay authorised as lay ministers for particular special areas of ministry a number of years ago. She has exercised this ministry ever since, but the authorisation lapsed a few years ago and the changes in the Diocese at the time meant that there was no formal reauthorisation undertaken.

In one sense no one needs to be made 'official' to do Kingdom work - it is the calling of every Christian, and we are all differently gifted. However, it does help in an organisation such as the church, for there to be lines of responsibility set up - all under God, but with people mediating that. This particular form of 'official' ministry (ALM) was introduced some years ago in Ely Diocese to encourage and empower lay people in work for the Kingdom in whatever their personal calling was, with training that didn't require them to do things that were not relevant. The ministry of an ALM is not the same as those *licensed* to ministry, as Chris Miller is, and both ministries are different from *ordained* ministry. Valerie's authorisation does not give her the responsibilities of teaching and preaching that Chris's does, and neither of them can administer sacraments which is the role of those who are ordained priests.

Valerie is required to undergo checks and training to assure everyone (as we who know her know are already assured) that she is a suitable and safe person for the visiting and caring that she does. Valerie will not be doing anything she has not already been doing, but she will have the protection and sanction from the Diocese to undertake this role on behalf of St Mary's church, which is both a privilege and a responsibility. We pray for her in her ministry and will undertake to support her. To this end, if you know of anyone who needs special prayer, a visit, or home communion, do let Valerie know. This is not that she is to do everything, nor that everyone needs to know all that she is doing but it does mean that there is a person with whom the knowledge of need within and beyond our church congregations sits, so that the Body of Christ in this place is linked together.

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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

Wednesday Midweek Eucharists

A said service of Holy Communion will normally be celebrated at 9.30am at St. Mary's, Gamlingay on remaining Wednesdays in June

June

Sunday 21st June: Trinity 3

9.30am Parish Eucharist with healing time at St. Mary's, Gamlingay
Reauthorisation of Valerie Miller.
4pm Evensong at St. Mary's, Everton
Bishop Sarah's Installation at Ely

Sunday 28th June: Trinity 4

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

July

Sunday 5th July: Trinity 5 TBC

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

Sunday 12th July: Trinity 6

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

Sunday 19th July: Trinity 7

9.30am Parish Eucharist with healing time at St. Mary's, Gamlingay
Time TBC Evensong at St. Mary's, Everton (Hilary's last service there)

Sunday 26th July Trinity 8

10am Farewell Benefice Eucharist at Gamlingay followed by refreshments.

August

There will probably be a Eucharist in one of the Parish Churches each Sunday, with visiting clergy officiating. Richard Howe, Archdeacon, may well be with the Benefice quite often during this time, and it is hoped there will be a service in each church every Sunday, however plans are still being firmed up. In the diary at time of going to press.....

Sunday 23rd August Trinity 12

9.30am Parish Eucharist with Baptism of baby Arthur at Gamlingay
Congregation members are invited to share celebratory refreshments in church afterwards

*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.*