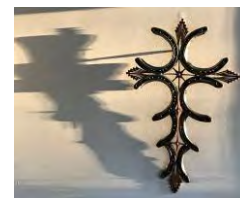


ST MARY'S GAMLINGAY, HATLEY ST GEORGE & ST MARY'S EVERTON



Weekly newsletter 26 June 2026



From Hilary:

Well done if you are managing the heat, commiserations if not. Personally, I'm finding it a trial, but our retirement home is blessed with a cool downstairs which is a boon in this circumstance, it remains to be seen how that works out in winter but for now we are giving heartfelt thanks - the Rectory is much less comfortable! We give thanks, too, that the new place is now on the phone and internet, and I have replaced the mobile phone which I lost last week and am back in communication - well nearly so. At the time of writing the new phone will accept but not send texts and will neither send nor receive phone calls! Hopefully this glitch will have been sorted by the time you read the newsletter.

This Sunday, the last in June, Chris Miller will preach at both churches with me leading the services.

Last Sunday's special events were indeed 'special'. Our prayers continue for Valerie and +Sarah in their roles.

Hilary and Ann were privileged to be at the cathedral for the service at which +Sarah was installed. An order of service is available for inspection in each of the churches, and the service is available on YouTube for anyone who would like to view it.

Benefice preparations for vacancy

The group of people who form both the Benefice Standing Committee and the Benefice Worship Task Group met in the latter capacity on Monday, the last time worship planning will be, in any part, Hilary's responsibility. As well as discussing July services (see below) the group began the preparations for worship when Hilary leaves.

In vacancy, Sunday services are supported by the Diocese, usually via the Area Dean working with Church Wardens. As there is no Area Dean in our Deanery, the Archdeacon will work with Ann Davis in the first place. Ann is supported by the other Wardens and the Benefice Worship Task Group, particularly with the task of finding priests to conduct Eucharists. The Task Group has prepared a possible pattern of services, following the advice that only one Eucharist will be paid for the Benefice each Sunday. Additional Eucharists could be paid for by the parishes, but it was agreed that as well as the financial resources not being there, finding people to take the services would also be challenging.

The current plan is to have a service at each parish church on the current pattern of timings. Once a month there will be a Eucharist at Everton and on the other Sundays a Eucharist at Gamlingay. More details will be published as they are available.

Festivals through Autumn to Christmas were discussed and will be as near to what has become usual as is possible with available staffing.

Hilary had offered that July could be a trial period for any new pattern, but it was agreed that the first two Sundays in July would follow the current pattern of two Eucharists in the morning, one at each parish church, with the other July services being planned (see below and on page 3)

Plans are well progressed for managing the so-called Occasional Offices (Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals) in the parishes during vacancy. Information will be widely publicised on what is happening in due course.



Hilary's Retirement Celebrations

Everton: 19th July

Gamlingay 26th July



Invitations have now been circulated to all who receive the newsletter, for the parties which will follow Hilary's final services, firstly at Everton following a 5pm Evensong on 19th July, and the following week at Gamlingay, following a 10am morning service on 26th July.

NB: This is an open invitation and there is no need to reply but should you wish to do so, please email Jane Orchiston or Ann Davis (see contact details on last page)

All members of the congregations are invited as well as anyone from the local community who would like to attend. There will also be some special invitations given to members of the wider church family and some local officials.

NB: In Gamlingay we are asking for contributions to the refreshments, and, to this end, there will, as from this Sunday, be a sign-up sheet in church for offerings of finger food items and/or drinks to be listed.

Please add your name and items as soon as possible so that we can ensure a good spread on the day.

Thank you!

Who is Jane Orchiston and what does she do?

Introducing my roles to all of you. I am a member of the PCC, I am the CCTV controller, I am the Benefice Parish Safeguarding Officer, I am the Benefice DBS Administrator, I am the Health and Safety nominated person. I organise the organ rota and I play the organ sometimes. I also lead the Task Group for Communications and Fundraising. Please help me fulfil these roles by responding positively when I am trying to fulfil my Safeguarding duties as directed by the Diocese and the Church of England. Hope you find this useful!

Jane

NEWS FROM HATLEY ST GEORGE

A 'last service at Hatley' for Hilary is being discussed - no firm plans yet, but a Taizé-style evening service has been suggested on one of the first two Sundays in July. Any thoughts?

NEWS FROM EVERTON

Soup and Social happened last Tuesday- nothing to report from Hilary

NEWS FROM GAMLINGAY

Simple Lunch/Memory Lane met on Tuesday without Hilary and Norman, mainly because of the heat, but also because Hilary has been sorting out issues with a lost phone.

It's Your Move will be taking place this Friday at school, with a session using the publication of that name which will be gifted to all the Y6 leavers. **Nick Slater, Outreach and Discipleship Project Worker for WCCYM** has arranged and will lead the session with Hilary and Adrian. Please pray for all our Y6 children as they look forward to next year in new places of education.

Benefice Services and Events

June

Sunday 28th June: Trinity 4

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

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

Wednesday Midweek Eucharist

9.30am A said service of Holy Communion will be celebrated at St. Mary's, Gamlingay all being well.

July

Sunday 5th July: Trinity 5

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

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

Wednesday Midweek Eucharist

9.30am A said service of Holy Communion at St. Mary's, Gamlingay all being well.

Sunday 12th July: Trinity 6

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

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

Wednesday Midweek Eucharist

9.30am A said service of Holy Communion at St. Mary's, Gamlingay all being well.

Sunday 19th July: Trinity 7

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

5 pm Evensong at St. Mary's, Everton (Hilary's last service there) followed by

Wednesday Midweek Eucharist refreshments.

9.30am A said service of Holy Communion at St. Mary's, Gamlingay all being well.

Sunday 26th July Trinity 8

10am Farewell Benefice Eucharist at Gamlingay followed by refreshments in Church Hall

NB: No midweek Eucharist this or following weeks - arrangements underway for some form of prayer/worship

August services to be announced

Sunday 23rd August Trinity 12

10am Benefice 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.*

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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.