

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



Weekly newsletter 17 July 2026



From Hilary:

I can't believe, and have to keep saying it to myself to confirm, that I will be finishing with responsibilities in these parishes in a couple of weeks' time. This is the last but one Newsletter for me, and this Sunday begins the 'Farewells' with Evensong at Everton being the last service there followed by refreshments. I look forward with mixed feelings to this service as well as the one in the morning at Gamlingay the following week, which will be my last not only in these parishes but in full time ministry leading any parish. The last time I had similar feelings was when finishing at university when despite knowing in general what was to happen next, there was no clear picture of what that would look or feel like. This, at the other end of life, will obviously turn out to be different in many ways, though there is some of the same feeling. This time though, there is a wealth of experience to draw on, building the confidence that the Almighty is in charge. So much has fallen into place in the last months and weeks. I thank God for that, and for all of you as I enter this 'end time' with two funerals as well as the celebrations. May God continue to bless us all in this phase of our journey.

I have no doubt I shall be repeating myself over this, but I want to say a particular 'thank you' to Brenda for the many of these Newsletters she has edited. I hear those who say it has outlived its usefulness, as well as those who value this way of finding out what is going on. There will be a change, do make yourself known to Jane Orchiston, Ann Davis or Amelie Geddis with any thoughts and in particular any offers of help for parish outward-facing communications which these three people have been working on, especially in Gamlingay.



Hilary's Retirement Celebration Gamlingay 26th July



The invitation to Hilary's Farewell Celebrations on 26th July [is attached to this newsletter](#) for those who may have missed it or need a reminder. We are very much looking forward to some musical entertainment from Angela Crispe as well.

We will be setting up in the Church Hall from 4pm on Saturday 25th July. Helpers would be very much appreciated then, during the event and also with the clearing away afterwards.

NB: IF YOU WISH TO MAKE A DONATION TOWARDS THE GIFT, COULD YOU PLEASE DO SO BY THE END OF THIS WEEKEND.

Many thanks to Lindy for creating a card which should be available for signatures at church on Sunday.

NEWS FROM EVERTON

NB: There will be a card in Church over the weekend, for people to sign, to send their best wishes to Hilary on her retirement.

The last Soup and Social of the season will be this Tuesday 21st. Unfortunately, Hilary will not be able to attend as it clashes with Gamlingay's Simple Lunch which will be the last for which Hilary produces a soup.

NEWS FROM HATLEY ST GEORGE

Plans are still formulating for a last event at Hatley Church on Saturday 25th. It will follow sometime after the quarter peal attempt at Gamlingay. Times and content TBC, but there will be refreshments.

The Newsletter (from the Editor))

As Hilary wrote last week, the newsletter in its current form will cease to exist at the end of July. With Hilary's retirement looming the time seemed right to resign from my role as editor and open the way for an alternative method of circulating information.

The newsletter, as it is today, began life during the time of Covid lockdowns as a means of keeping us all in touch when face-to-face contact was impossible. It was well received and proved to be a very useful tool for communication purposes at that time. To begin with I offered to edit and collate items submitted but had no idea about how to use computer layout. Ian Parker took on this task, and we worked well together until the time came when he felt the need to withdraw. We canvassed opinions about the newsletter round about that time and received mixed feedback, but the view of the majority of those who responded was that it had value and should continue.

Ian kindly forwarded me his basic template which I still use but by that time, I had managed to acquire a few more skills myself and have greatly enjoyed playing around with the newsletter layout each week and doing my best to make it look appealing as well as being accurately informative. I will miss this (although it will be quite good to free up Thursdays again!) but after 317 issues the time has come for a change.

My apologies to those of you who would have liked it to continue, but I know there are others who will welcome a fresh approach. Next week's issue will be my last as Editor.

Brenda

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

NEWS FROM GAMLINGAY

It's Your Move session, postponed from a previous Friday, was quite hard work with year 6 who were by this time somewhat 'demob happy'. This is the year group that particularly missed out through the Covid epidemic and our prayers go with them as they find their way in the world on this next step, most of them transitioning to Comberton Village College.

Simple Lunch which will be Hilary's last, takes place this next week. Jane Orchiston and Ann Davis, with other helpers, will be continuing these lunches, and would welcome offers of soups or anything else.

Memory Lane the following week (after Hilary's last service) will be her last of these sessions. Kate, manager at the EcoHub, will continue with her partnership, working with Jane Orchiston and other helpers.

RIP Shirley Laing whose funeral was with Seamers last Thursday, thank you everyone who helped to make this a fitting farewell for her.

RIP Nick Bruce whose funeral with Seamers takes place on Monday 20th July at St Mary's at 2.00pm.

RIP Ann Kirby whose funeral with Shires takes place on Friday 24th July at 2.30pm

Benefice Services and Events

July

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 22nd July, 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

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

NB: Details of other August services will follow in next week's newsletter.

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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