

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



Weekly newsletter 24 July 2026



From Hilary:

This was to have been the last Newsletter in this format but there may now be one more - I shall still technically be in post until next Friday, and there will no doubt be more 'thank-yous' to say, so a repeat of the particular 'thank you' to Brenda for adding one more to the many of these Newsletters she has edited. This time the main 'thank you' is to Everton people who hosted the event, also attended by some from the rest of the Benefice and elsewhere, for making the last Evensong there and the following 'Do', such a joy. Norman was able to make it to the service and the 'Do' with help from others, freeing me up to join the choir - special thanks to various additions, including two of my clergy colleagues who will not be able to attend the last Benefice service this coming Sunday morning. There was a list of apologies, but the 40 or so who were in church were a great blessing. Thank you, too, to Soup and Social folk led by Sue, for the very special personal greeting and gift by which to remember this lovely community enterprise. It was very helpful to look at the cards in making this 'end time' feel more real.

PCCs During Vacancy

A Benefice PCC has been formed by merging the two elected PCCs to meet and work together through the vacancy. It will be chaired by a Church Warden, taking turns between the two parishes. That group was formed after a meeting with the Archdeacon, and its first meeting was chaired by Hilary for her last PCCs meeting. It was agreed that each PCC would continue to deal with its own business, meetings would be agreed within those groups and might or might not coincide with the shared meetings. An item 'for information' would be included in the shared PCCs business.

The Benefice PCC has delegated work on worship and ministry to the Benefice Worship Group (see below). This group has the same personnel as the Benefice Standing Committee. The three Church Wardens are on both groups, which have been formed from and by the Benefice PCC to support them in their particular tasks during vacancy.

The following pattern (*see top of next page*) was agreed by the Benefice PCC at the last meeting chaired by Hilary. There will no doubt be more information shared in due course when the method of communication has been agreed by the PCCs and put into action.

The Benefice Worship Group is to be chaired by Chris Miller; it met for a second time on Monday this week. Since the business is now very much about what is to come in vacancy Hilary was not involved, having handed over any appropriate continuity material at the first meeting of this group (or to follow as agreed at that meeting).

	GAMLINGAY		EVERTON	
Sunday	Time	Type of Service	Time	Type of Service
1st	9.30	Non-Eucharistic all age	11.15	Eucharist
2nd	9.30	Eucharist	11.15	Word & Worship
3rd	9.30	Eucharist with Healing	16.00	Evensong
4th	9.30	Eucharist	11.15	Word & Worship
5th Sunday 10am from April to October, Hatley			BENEFICE EUCCHARIST 10am November to March 5th <i>Alternating Between Everton and Gamlingay</i>	

NEWS FROM GAMLINGAY

Simple Lunch, Hilary's last, took place this last week. Thank you to Jane Wallace for a second soup this time, and to everyone who has made this such a good social occasion offering hospitality to all. Jane Orchiston and Ann Davis, with other helpers (who will be very welcome and needed!) will be continuing these lunches. Offers of soups or anything else are most welcome.

Memory Lane next week (after Hilary's last service) will be her last. Kate, manager at the EcoHub, will continue working in partnership with Jane Orchiston and other helpers. Thank you to everyone who has made these sessions work - helpers, clients' and their companions, and others who probably don't quite fall into any of these categories but are most welcome.

Climate Action Group

This group formed by the local council in response to the Climate emergency, meets regularly and has an eclectic membership which includes both church leaders in Gamlingay and a number of others of all ages. The group has links with other groups with similar interests, including the Cambridge Scything Group which works in the churchyards locally and on some of the Council land.

The most recent activity (of many) was a talk publicised in this Newsletter, given by Micky Astor on soil health "The answer lies in the soil". The talk included information on what has been and is being done on the Astor estate to revitalise soil. It was fascinating, informative and very encouraging to learn a bit about what is going on in food production, and the way farming practices are going to have to change with the recognition of the cost, both financial and environmental, of production as it has developed over the years. Some 40 people attended, mainly not Climate Action Group members as happened. We hope there will be more to come - a Compost Club might well be one of the first fruits.



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.

HELP! 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.

PLEASE NOTE: This event will take place in the Church Hall NOT the Eco Hub as originally advertised.

NEWS FROM EVERTON

A lovely Evensong service took place on Sunday, refreshments after, and a generous garden token gift, alongside a lovely personal 'thank you' from the Soup and Social group was very much appreciated. Well done and thank you to the caterers!

Everton PCC will have met by the time this Newsletter is out. As previously explained, each PCC will be conducting individual parish business, but all items that affect the Benefice will be discussed by the shared group. The churchyard will have been a significant item.

HILARY'S FAREWELL.

Choral Evensong was celebrated last Sunday to mark Hilary's last Service at Everton. Andrew Smith and Chris Miller led the Benefice Choir and guest singers, which contributed to a beautiful service, appreciated by all who came.

This was followed by a delicious afternoon tea in the village hall.

Hilary was presented with several gifts and best wishes for her retirement from full time ministry.

Thanks to all who contributed to making the afternoon so enjoyable.

Jane Butcher. Church Warden.

The following poem was read by Johathan Kirkham during the celebrations at the Village Hall.....

RETIREMENT BLESSINGS FOR A PRIEST

Your life of prayer, your sacred vow,
Has touched so many then and now.
With steady hands and open heart,
You've played a faithful, guiding part.

Now delight, dear Father, in His grace,
And feel His arms, His warm embrace.
The Mass is sung, the work is done,d
The race is run, the crown is won.

May peace now dwell within your soul,
And joy complete what made you whole.
May every day bring light and cheer,
And friendships deep draw ever near.

The seeds you planted bloom and grow,
Their fruit will bless the world you know.
May heaven's song now fill your heart,
As you from service take your part.



NEWS FROM HATLEY ST GEORGE

Plans are now firmed up for the last event of Hilary's ministry at Hatley Church. Hilary was able to publicise this at the Council meeting this week, and Peter Mann is kindly putting something visual together. Many thanks to him for this, and for all he has done during Hilary's time publicising events and engaging with outward-facing communications – [click here for a copy of the poster](#).

Praying through the Vacancy

One of the most important things we can all do during the forthcoming vacancy is to pray, both for the vacancy itself and also for the appointment of a new Parish Priest. With that in mind I shall be saying prayers, specifically for the vacancy, in Gamlingay church on Friday mornings at 10.00am and I would be delighted should anybody wish to join me. This will not be a formal service, but a time of prayer together lasting for 15 minutes or so. I shall begin on Friday 7 August.

Chris Miller.

Benefice Services and Events

July

Saturday 25th July

6pm Informal music and social event at Hatley St George - organ music plus any other (all welcome, contact Hilary or just turn up). Refreshments, including wine and nibbles on offer,

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 2nd August – Trinity 9

9.30am All Age Service of the Word, St. Mary's, Gamlingay

11.15am Benefice Eucharist Service, St. Mary's Everton (Revd. Nigel Di Castiglione)

Sunday 9th August – Trinity 10

9.30am Benefice Eucharist Service, St. Mary's, Gamlingay (Revd. Canon Paul Hutchinson)

11.15am Service of the Word, St. Mary's, Everton

Sunday 16th August – Trinity 11

9.30am Benefice Eucharist Service, St. Mary's, Gamlingay (The Venerable Archdeacon Richard Harlow)

4pm Evensong, St. Mary's, Everton.

Sunday 23rd August Trinity 12

10am Benefice Eucharist with Baptism of baby Arthur Geddis Dewhurst at Gamlingay (Revd. Hilary Young)

11.15am Service of the Word, St. Mary's. Everton.

Sunday 30th August

10am Benefice Eucharist Service, Hatley St. George. (Revd. Nigel Di Castiglione)

The Wednesday service at Gamlingay will now be 9.30am Morning Prayer commencing in September.

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

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

Thank you to everyone who helped to make these fitting farewells.

Thank You!

I, for one, would like to thank Brenda for her weekly toil of producing the Newsletter. Imagine 317 of them and how useful they have been keeping us in touch with what's happening. Congratulations and many thanks. **Lindy Gorton**

(Thanks are also due to Hilary who has also toiled for 317 weeks to produce the bulk of the input without which there would have been no newsletter! - Editor)

Hilary Young , Parish Priest	hilaryfyoung@gmail.com	01767 650587
Chris Miller , LLM/Reader	cfm55@btinternet.com	01767 650779
Ann Davis , Churchwarden and Gamlingay/Hatley PCC Secretary	anngamlingay@aol.com	07970 076972
Nick Ingles , Gamlingay/Hatley Treasurer	nickingles@me.com	07868 144830
Richard Astell , Everton Treasurer	richard@astell.co.uk	
Valerie Miller , ALM Pastoral	vjm55@btinternet.com	01767 650779
Jane Butcher , Churchwarden, Everton	Janebutcher59@googlemail.com	077105 50098
Jonathan Kirkham , Churchwarden, Everton	Drjak57@gmail.com	01767 692776 07720 134969
Jane Orchiston , Benefice Safeguarding Officer	janeorch@hotmail.com	07535 005908

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