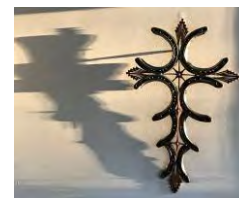


ST MARY'S GAMLINGAY, HATLEY ST GEORGE & ST MARY'S EVERTON



Weekly newsletter 31 July 2026



From Hilary:

This week has been a great joy but has also felt pretty hard work again at times. Ending 'official' ministry is an emotional time anyway, and with two funerals, (and bearing in mind I don't now cope with the heat just at a time of life when the heat is becoming more fierce) it has been quite a physical effort as well. I know I am not alone in longing for temperatures nearer 20C than 30C! But the great joy definitely wins out. A final big THANK YOU to Brenda for this swan-song Newsletter, giving me the opportunity to say so many other 'thank yous'.

The Friday this Newsletter comes out is my last day in the Benefice as parish priest (Rector). However, we shall be back and forth during August clearing the Rectory and sorting the garden out. Thank you to those of you who have offered help (much needed and appreciated) with this challenging task! I will be sorting out dates and tasks for people to take on in the next few days after the weekend off and before we take a real break over the next weekend prior to finishing things in time to hand house keys back.

Visitors will be very welcome at our new rented home in Godmanchester, especially (but by no means only) as company for Norman when I'm out. The place is not very big, but hospitality is always on offer.

Rather than publishing the new address here, please know that anyone is welcome. I will give information to the church wardens to pass on or do email me directly on the usual gmail address and I will give details of how to find us. It is always a good idea to call or text ahead to make sure we are there, but last-minute drop-ins are also welcome.

As I said in my final service, I am so grateful to God and to all concerned for ALL the experiences of my ministry, here and elsewhere, including the ones that didn't feel good at the time, or even still don't. It has taken me all my employed life to get to this point, where I can accept the rough with the smooth as all being good, at least in retrospect, and be grateful for it. You might think it shouldn't have taken this long, with the fact that the hymn we started with on Sunday (Father hear the prayer we offer) has been a constant favourite through life, used at our wedding. It prays for the 'steep and rugged pathway' - but the prayer is not complete without the part that asks to be able to tread that 'rejoicingly' - and for where I have failed to do so, I beg forgiveness.

And so, to the many positive things for which I am aware of being grateful.....

In the first place the lovely send-offs. I've already given my appreciation for the service and 'do' at Everton the previous Sunday. Here I'd like to add to that how grateful I also am for those who have organised, done the work and all who have contributed their talents in so many ways beforehand and on the two days of this last weekend. For Saturday Peter Mann and Nicola Jenkins in the Hatleys helped me to enable a unique event-cum-service there. With Penny who had cleaned the church, and other helpers at the time, I was assisted in exercising my own desire to offer hospitality and enable Paul Edwards and Micky Astor to share their musical skills. We sang hymns and Taizé chants, prayed a little, enjoyed refreshments and all had a lovely and convivial time.

And then so much gratitude for Sunday, with a church full at Gamlingay including people from various phases of ministry at Gamlingay and the Hatleys together with Everton folk and friends from past as well as family. It was a privilege to preside at a Eucharistic service and share in the feast afterwards (not that I ate that much myself with all the talking - as you do!) accompanied by Angela's hugely enjoyable and skillful music. Thank you so much everyone; Lindy's lovely card with all its signatures will be a beautiful keepsake which I hope to frame, and I am most grateful, too, for the generous garden token and additional monetary gift. A wormery is on the list of likely purchases, and there will be no excuse for anything other than a beautiful all-the-year-round patio display (that's virtually all the garden we have) with the funds I now have at my disposal from the two parish gifts.

Lindy's card



And beyond the immediate send-off, I would also like to express my gratitude to the many people who have shared talents at the churches and beyond in the Benefice throughout my time here. Thank you for contributions to music for worship especially - playing or singing or both - I have spoken to one or two personally as opportunity presented, and hope that others know how much I value what they have given and in many cases still give.

And then there are those who have shared other ministry with me, helping to prepare and lead worship, dealing with the administration that comes with being a parish in the Church of England and working for the present while planning for the future in times that have been fairly challenging! A stolen church roof in Gamlingay just as a big development project was shaping; a pandemic that shut down so much and challenged us all in dealing with regulations and the restrictions of our own and the health of those around us; a church closed for the revamped project to include essential repairs in Gamlingay; and then most recently the issues with parish share and the many people who worked hard, and in some cases donated very generously, to keep the churches as near afloat as could be managed.

There is also much gratitude to some who may well not read this – my family, some for supporting the music and Norman's attendance at my last service, and all of them for so much more in recent and past times. The people of goodwill of and beyond the church members with whom I have worked, particularly on matters environmental, the roof repair project in Gamlingay, the Food Project, Simple Lunches, Soup Lunches, Memory Lane and the churchyard management projects in 4 places.

Finally, I dare not name, as I will probably forget someone important, the people for whom I give thanks who are no longer with us in this life, who have shared their love, work and stories. Many have contributed enormously to church life, both during my time and before, and I am privileged to have known and worked with them, and in some cases helped to say a fitting farewell. May we never forget those whose legacy we enjoy.

So, thank you all for being there and being yourself, may God bless us all in doing more of that and being our best selves, wherever we are placed, for however long we have left. Keep in touch if you would like but move on too into the next phase.

Every blessing

Hilary

And also on behalf of Norman, who feels so blessed to have been able to be at all three celebrations, and by the kindness and love he has been shown -I know he really appreciated those who spoke to him.



Hilary and Norman
Best wishes for a happy retirement from us all!



Sunday's Lunch in the Church Hall



NEWS FROM THE HATLEYS

The last event of Hilary's ministry in Hatley was much enjoyed and was an opportunity to firm up connections for continuing support for the little church there. Norman has particularly enjoyed that small church with the view of a big, beautiful tree through the clear glass East window. It was lovely that he was able to be there for Saturday.

St Denis churchyard has been scythe-mown this week. Great thanks to the team, with Peter and Nicola supporting and helping with organisation.

From Peter Mann

HILARY'S LAST EVENT AT HATLEY CHURCH

It was, in essence, a Taizé style service with a few prayers, short readings, two hymns and music – Paul Edwards played several solo pieces (including some he composed) on the organ and accompanied the hymns; and Micky Astor accompanied himself on guitar as he sang *Miss Otis Regrets* and *Making Whoopie*, finishing with an intriguing samba. All followed by wine and nibbles in the summer sunshine overlooking a quiet corner of England with cattle grazing in the adjacent field.



NEWS FROM EVERTON

Everton PCC met last Thursday and discussed items to do with hand-over to vacancy and various ongoing pieces of business, including the clock, the organ and the churchyard.

Jonathan continues to help lead the building project (Friends group)

There will be a hedge-laying session in the Autumn supported by the Gamlingay volunteers, led by Gwyn Williams. This is planned for October, and there may well be opportunity for training advertised for one or two locally if there are any takers.

Future dates for your diaries:

The church Coffee Morning group have two Events planned.....

1. Autumn/ Harvest Coffee Morning on Saturday 19th of September, 10 - 12 Noon, in the Village Hall.
2. Christmas Coffee Morning, on Saturday 28th of November. Again 10 - 12, in the Village Hall.

Please make a note of these dates and come along if you can, everyone welcome. Many thanks from the Church coffee morning group.

NEWS FROM GAMLINGAY

Memory Lane (after Hilary's last service) was pretty much her last public activity in the parish before retirement. The Community Choir entertained, refreshments were enjoyed, and Hilary presented with a lovely card and some fizz.

**The Community Choir
at Memory Lane**



Churchyard: This will have been under discussion this Thursday with the Parish Council and volunteers to look for a more effective way forward for its proper management as a wildlife and community amenity.

Message from Valerie Miller Authorised Lay Minister with Pastoral Responsibilities

During the vacancy I will be taking up the responsibility of pastoral work in the benefice. This includes visiting on behalf of the church, taking communion to the housebound and compiling the intercession list. If you are, or anyone you know is, unable to get to church and would like to receive communion at home, please get in touch with me.

We all have problems some or all of the time and we all know of many people whose lives are difficult. We can and I hope do pray for them in our own private prayers. Each week I produce a list of names that I have been given and this list is distributed and is used at the Sunday morning services. If we each added all the people we are concerned about it would be a very long list. Could we therefore, keep the list for those people whose need is particularly acute at the time eg they have gone into hospital, are undergoing tests, have received a traumatic diagnosis, been taken ill. Remember that you must have their permission. (Not everyone wants to have their name broadcast.) I also propose that we use surnames to avoid confusion. After notification, I will leave the names on the sick list for a couple of weeks or until the crisis is over or they come out of hospital. If the situation changes they can of course go back on.

If someone has died and the funeral will be in church or taken on behalf of the church at a crematorium I will add the name to the list of RIPs until after the funeral. If you have someone you want to add please let me know but do make sure the family are in agreement with this.

If you have someone you would like added to the names on the Years Mind list please let me have their name and the date you would like them to be remembered.

If you would like me to visit or to talk to me, please ask, and I will do my best to see you as soon as I can.

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.*

	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 EUCHARIST 10am November to March 5th <i>Alternating Between Everton and Gamlingay</i>	

Benefice Services and Events

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 (Rev. Nigel Di Castiglione)

Sunday 9th August – Trinity 10

9.30am Benefice Eucharist Service, St. Mary's, Gamlingay (Rev. 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 (Rev. Hilary Young)

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

Sunday 30th August

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

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

Parish Priest - Vacancy		
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