

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



Weekly newsletter 24 March 2023



From Hilary...

In line with the 'do what we can, not what we can't' advice which I keep repeating, the Benefice financial update promised this week is not yet complete - maybe next week?

As we turn the corner in Lent with Mothering Sunday just gone and clocks moving forward an hour this next Sunday, there is a real sense that whatever the weather does (and it could still get very cold again if other years are anything to go by) Spring is definitely underway with the evenings getting lighter. We are looking towards our Holy Week and Easter services, as listed below. Now is the time to plan involvement if not already done.

Lent 2023 is not yet over however - here's what's going on this next week:

Monday Lent Lunch

There is still soup on the go each Monday, just let me (Hilary) know.

Group Lent Sessions

Lent Study 2023

Meeting ID: 820 0888 3446

Passcode: 208296



Monday afternoons 2-3pm at the Rectory

Mothering Sunday displaced to Monday the celebration of St Joseph (Jesus' earthly Dad) whose feast day is 19th March. This meant that we had the opportunity to follow up Mothering Sunday with more thoughts on parenting and family, recognising that these can be difficult concepts for some people. On Monday 27th we shall be back with Jeremiah

Wednesday evenings continue using Amy Scott Robinson's book 'Images of Grace' and preparing for confirmation. This week's topic is 'Images of Atonement' alongside which we look at the Creeds again and the great prayer of consecration in the Communion service. Next week with 'Images of Restoration' we shall look at blessing and sending out.

Holy Week and Easter –

April services are listed below but here is a bit more information about the Easter ones.

Palm Sunday will see the short Liturgy of the Palms at Everton and Gamlingay churches, with a brief pause following, to give time to gather at Gamlingay for the Benefice 'Liturgy of the Passion' which includes a dramatised version of one of the Passion Gospels - this year from Matthew. Please let Hilary know if you can be part of the Gospel presentation this year.



Holy Week Monday-Wednesday

All musicians are welcome to join in but you don't need to play an instrument to come along and take part in these contemplative services using the chants that form the worship of the Taizé community in France. Please let Hilary know if you can be involved. These services will be similar in using the same chants, but with some differences depending on personnel for each evening. Venues will be confirmed next week, possible sequence Hatley, Gamlingay, Everton.

Maundy Thursday

We shall be having a Seder meal in Gamlingay to which all are welcome. This is a reminder of the Jewish Passover celebration in which Jesus was taking part at the Last Supper, and on which the Communion service is based. There are sign-up sheets in Gamlingay church for the meal, which has a formal symbolic element followed by a proper feast - baked potatoes and a variety of accompaniments, including but not limited to the traditional roast lamb. The atmospheric service that follows at Gamlingay church celebrates the institution of Holy Communion, before the mood changes, remembering the events of that evening. Reserve sacrament is taken to the altar of repose as the rest of the church is emptied of hangings, leading into a vigil.

Good Friday

The intention is that anyone visiting our churches has the opportunity to reflect on the barrenness of that first Good Friday. Easter gardens may be set up, but without the flowers. Please let Hilary know if you would like to be involved in making churches appropriate for that day.

Holy Saturday

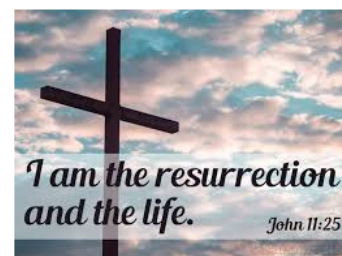
Churches will be decorated for Easter. There is a service at the Cathedral that evening, which this year will replace our customary vigil, service of light and renewal of baptism vows. Those elements will be present in the confirmation service at the cathedral, at which there will also be a Eucharist. The Easter candles for our churches will be lit at that service and brought into churches on Easter morning.

Ann and Jess are to be confirmed at this service. We celebrate with them and pray for them as they complete their preparation.

Easter Day

We celebrate with joy the risen Lord. At Gamlingay we will be welcoming those confirmed the previous evening and now an adult baptism candidate.

The service at Hatley will be a short Easter 'Service of the Word' preceding the egg hunt organised by the community group.



REVISION OF ELECTORAL ROLL

Please note - the Electoral Roll for Gamlingay and Hatley is being revised.

Anyone wishing to be added or removed from the roll should please notify Valerie Miller by 26th March.

This Week

Sunday 26th March	Fifth Sunday of Lent - Passiontide begins - clocks go forward
9.30am	Parish Eucharist at Gamlingay
11.15am	Parish Eucharist at Everton
Wednesday 29th March	
9.30am	Midweek Communion, Gamlingay

April Services

Holy Week and Easter

Sunday 2nd April - Palm Sunday

9.30 am	Liturgy of the Palms procession at Everton and Gamlingay
10.15am	Benefice Liturgy of the Passion at Gamlingay

Palm Crosses distributed at these services and available afterwards.

Monday 3rd April

7.30pm	Taizé-style evening service
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Tuesday 4th April

7.30pm	Taizé-style evening service
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Wednesday 5th April

7.30pm	Taizé-style evening service
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Maundy Thursday 6th April

6pm	Seasonal meal at the Church Hall in Gamlingay, followed by.....
7.30pm	Benefice Maundy Thursday service and vigil - after which altars will be stripped in all three churches.

Good Friday 7th April

All three churches open for quiet, individual reflection.

12 - 2pm	At Gamlingay, guided reflection with music leading into...
2.00pm	Communion from reserve sacrament

Holy Saturday 8th April

Churches decorated for Easter. Confirmation service at Ely Cathedral when our Easter candles will be lit. Please sign up to share lifts to this special service, which replaces the usual one in Gamlingay.

Easter Sunday 9th April

8.00am	Said BCP Communion service at Hatley St George (<i>check this service is happening</i>)
9.30am	Festival Eucharist and Baptism Service at Gamlingay
11.00am	Family service at Hatley St George
11.15am	Easter Eucharist at Everton

All these services will be followed by Easter egg hunts.

Sunday April 16th Easter 1

9.30am	Parish Eucharist at Gamlingay St Mary the Virgin
11.15am	Parish Eucharist at Everton St Mary

NB : Probably no midweek communion on Wednesday at Gamlingay

Sunday April 23rd Easter 2

9.30am	Parish Eucharist at Gamlingay St Mary the Virgin Followed by APCM in the Church Hall
2.30pm	St George's Day parade service at Gamlingay
4.00pm	Evensong at Everton

Sunday 30th April Easter 3

9.30am	Parish Eucharist at Gamlingay St Mary the Virgin
11.15am	Parish Eucharist at Everton St Mary

NEWS FROM GAMLINGAY

Thank you to Jess and Sandra for putting together the posies for Gamlingay on Saturday afternoon and to those who helped to make the farewell to **Joan Strudley** a good event on Tuesday. Alec and Andrew - bless you!

Mothering Sunday Service –

We celebrated caring and carers, not just Mums, and it was lovely to have children with us - good to meet Belle and Graeme who will be marrying elsewhere but whose Banns we shall be reading, and to welcome Orlando and his grandparents back from their trip to America.

NEWS FROM EVERTON

Everton PCC (newly appointed at the APCM) meets on the afternoon of Wednesday 29th March, when plans will be formulated for the facilitated discussion agreed at the APCM, as well as much other business. Let Hilary know if there is something you would like to be included.

Mothering Sunday

Thank you to Jane Butcher for producing some lovely posies and for helping to take them out to those who didn't make it to church. The 4pm Prayerbook Evensong service was followed by communion by extension for those who wished.

Everton Community Group

The group met and formed a management group this last week. The **Soup and Social** is now established as an ongoing event (it was originally conceived to end in March) - the next one is on Tuesday 28th March. There is also now a programme of Saturday coffee mornings planned - more details as those develop.

Church Coffee mornings are being re-started, the first is booked for 3rd June – 10am -12 noon.

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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.

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