

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



## Weekly newsletter 7 April 2023



— HAPPY —  
EASTER

### *From Hilary...*

**Holy Week** culminates with Easter celebration and it is lovely, this year, to have a Baptism in Gamlingay church on the morning that we will be welcoming the newly confirmed. Please do bring along a candle to light with them - we will all be re-affirming our Baptism vows that day.

### **Finances**

See below for information concerning our Benefice finances for Gamlingay. Nick (Treasurer) writes to inform of very real reasons for concern. For the past three years the Share has been met by a combination of hard work in fund-raising, generosity of individuals, and expenditure of reserves. This year costs (insurance and heating) have risen sharply, while income is slightly down for the first three months of the year compared with last year. We have been unable to pay the second instalment of our Share (which pays for ministry in the parish). Without action now and in the coming months, the back end of the year will leave us with an insurmountable sum to raise.

It is important to note that Gamlingay carries financial commitment for the Hatleys, which are incorporated into the parish. The APCM later this month will be reporting for both churches. At present the income from the Hatleys does not meet the costs for the church there.

Although Everton is part of the Benefice too, it continues as a separate parish, sharing the cost of a minister who serves the whole Benefice. Everton's part of the Share is paid direct to the Diocese, although the Benefice Share is calculated across the parishes and the distribution between them is agreed locally. The proportional sharing of the costs does not reflect the time the parish priest spends working for each parish, nor necessarily the fund-raising capacity of the communities.

### **Easter Offering?**

In the old days, on Easter Day the church collection was given to the Parish Priest. It is a long time since the priest actually benefitted from that donation - before the practice was dropped altogether, the sum donated was deducted from stipend. The practice had many drawbacks, and in the interests of fairness it is a good thing it has gone.

**HOWEVER**, in view of the financial challenges facing us this coming year, please think about your contributions to church running costs. Nick and I are inviting you to consider both your regular giving and making a special one-off contribution on this day (or afterwards if that works better for you). This could be done in Everton too, for although the need is not as pressing, there will be financial challenges there later in the year.

**SO.....**

If you would like to make a gift in thanksgiving or memory at Easter, please let the relevant Treasurer know the extra sum you are donating. We will publish the totals, and any reasons for gifts that are given (of course anonymity is assured for those who prefer that). THANK YOU in advance for giving this your consideration. We are obviously not asking anyone to put themselves or their families in financial hardship - this is about being realistic about what we can afford and how we value what we have.

**Group Lent Sessions** finished this week. We shall have a week off after Easter with no groups meeting and no midweek communion.

**Holy Saturday** - The Easter candles for all three churches will be lit and processed at the cathedral at the confirmation service, before being brought back to the churches for introduction on Easter morning.

### **Easter Day**

We celebrate with joy the risen Lord. Christ is risen, he is risen indeed, Alleluia!

**At Gamlingay** - the service will include a Baptism and welcoming of those baptised elsewhere as well as renewal of Baptismal vows for everyone. You are invited to bring a candle if you have one from confirmation or baptism (or other if you wish) to light at the 'sending out'.

**At Everton** - we will welcome the Easter candle and renew Baptismal vows alongside our communion

**At Hatley** - the Easter candle will be welcomed at a short, child-friendly service, followed by the community Easter Egg Hunt.

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## ***NEWS FROM EVERTON***

**Everton PCC** have chosen a preferred date for a meeting for those on the Electoral Roll to consider the way forward. An external facilitator will be helping in this process. The date will be published when it is secure.

**Soup and Social** will be happening in Easter week.

**Flowers for Easter** are to be vases of flowers provided by any contributors rather than 'arrangements' from a flower team as there is a shortage of personnel. Contact Alex Pointier via Hilary or Jane with offers.

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## ***NEWS FROM GAMLINGAY***

**'Simple Lunch'** took place this week at the Church Hall with a dozen participants and was much enjoyed. Thank you to Jane O for help. These lunches look set to continue. Those who attended would be unable to do so on other days of the week, so we look like continuing on Tuesdays.

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*Happy Easter from Hilary and Norman*



## Services for Easter and the rest of April

**Good Friday** - 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** - 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.*

### **This Sunday - Easter Day**

8.00am Said BCP Communion service at Hatley St George  
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.*

**NB** : No midweek communion on Wednesday at Gamlingay

### **Sunday April 16th Easter 1**

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

### **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 with Communion from reserved sacrament by request.

### **Sunday April 28<sup>th</sup> Easter 3**

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

#### ***Received from the Gamlingay & District History Society...***

Dear Hilary,

I thought you and perhaps some of St Mary's parishioners might like to know that the History Society has a talk next week on the history of St Mary the Virgin Church Gamlingay, given by author Jim Brown. Jim has written extensively about the history of our village, and is without doubt the leading authority on the subject.

The talk takes place in the Main Hall at the Hub next Tuesday, April 11th, commencing at 7.30pm. Visitors are welcome at £3 on the door.

Please feel free to circulate this email if you think it might be of interest.

Kind Regards

*Peter Wright*

*Chair, Gamlingay & District History Society.*

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

## **Treasurer Nick Ingles writes with concern ahead of our APCM on 23rd April.**

### **Treasurer's Report to 31st March 2023 Gamlingay with the Hatleys**

In view of the PCC's financial struggles, I write with some details of our current finances. I understand these are not ordinary times and many of us have been impacted with the cost-of-living crisis, however those who are able to give more need to know how much their contribution is needed.

Below is a summary of the financial situation so far this year, the PCC has a fuller version of this report.

**The total expenditure for 2023 so far is £10,178**, which includes annual costs for the roof alarm, payments for the maintenance of Church Cottage and instalments for the Share as well as the energy bills already mentioned.

Our energy costs were £630.07 in March, bringing the total spent on energy so far in 2023 to £2,748 (this does include some amounts from Nov/Dec 2022). Our energy grant, worth £1,200 received in December, helped to cover some of these costs, with the balance coming from our reserves.

The 2nd Instalment of our Ministry Share has been reduced to £1 (from £4,022.26) due to insufficient funds in the PCC account. We have so far paid £4,023.26 this year with a balance of £36,199.31 to clear by December 2023.

**The total amount of income for 2023 sits at £9,767.** This means a balance of -£411 (-£4,432 if taking in consideration the Ministry Share underpayment)

Church plate collections to date have been £935, with £3,802 coming from the Parish Giving Scheme, and £555 from fund-raising

Church Hall lettings have so far generated £459.54 of income, however energy bills amounted to £421.01 so far in 2023, therefore just about avoiding a loss (that's before taking insurance costs into account)

Fund raising for March generated £6.50, from coffee money. Total fundraising for 2023 is £555. Our anticipated fundraising target was circa £15,000 at the beginning of 2023. One quarter of the way into the year we have not raised a tenth of that. Although the first part of the year is always slow, this is definitely a cause for concern. The PCC bank account had a balance of £2,903 on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023.

The amount of £50 was raised for the Manna/Niassa fund and an interest payment of £47.54 was paid into the PCC restricted fund account.

*Nick Ingles, Treasurer.*

Contact details below show who to contact in each parish:

<b>Hilary Young</b> , Parish Priest	<a href="mailto:hilaryafyoung@gmail.com">hilaryafyoung@gmail.com</a>	650587
<b>Chris Miller</b> , LLM/Reader	<a href="mailto:cfm55@btinternet.com">cfm55@btinternet.com</a>	650779
<b>Nick Ingles</b> , Gamlingay/Hatley Treasurer	<a href="mailto:nickingles@me.com">nickingles@me.com</a>	07868 144830
<b>Richard Astell</b> , Everton Treasurer	<a href="mailto:richard@astell.co.uk">richard@astell.co.uk</a>	
<b>Valerie Miller</b> , Pastoral	<a href="mailto:vjm55@btinternet.com">vjm55@btinternet.com</a>	650779
<b>Sandra Macrow</b> , LLM Children and Families' minister	<a href="mailto:sandramacrow@btinternet.com">sandramacrow@btinternet.com</a>	07958 710703
<b>Dawn Martin</b> , Gamlingay/Hatley PCC Secretary	<a href="mailto:dawnbeckymartin@aol.com">dawnbeckymartin@aol.com</a>	652832
<b>Alec Hissett</b>	<a href="mailto:alechissett@hotmail.com">alechissett@hotmail.com</a>	650052
<b>Jane Butcher</b> , Everton contact	<a href="mailto:Janebutcher59@googlemail.com">Janebutcher59@googlemail.com</a>	

### **Church opening times:**

**Everton church** open Friday – Sunday, and on Bank Holiday Mondays, 10am – 4pm.

**Hatley church** can be opened on request.

**Gamlingay church** open daily 10am – 5pm.