

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



Weekly newsletter 7 March 2025



From Hilary:

This week has been a particularly heavy one with three funerals as well as Ash Wednesday services. A total of 15 people between the parishes began Lent in reflective and repentant worship. Importantly, this is not about disabling ourselves with sorrow and guilt, but rather an opportunity to allow a process of spiritual 'Spring Cleaning' to begin.

As we 'remember we are dust' we should also remember that the atoms of the dust of which we are made were once part of a star - we are part of an amazing creation and called to join in with that creative process. May this Lent be a holy and re-creative time for us all.

Remember you are dust
And to dust you shall return
Turn away from sin
And be faithful to Christ



This Sunday 9th March, the first one in Lent, the lectionary remembers the time Jesus spent in the wilderness after his baptism at the beginning of his ministry. The temptations he is subject to are specific for him as Son of God, but the same principles apply to us.

The Enemy aims to distort and disable truth and goodness to undermine our sense of who and what we are and what we are for. Elements of truth can be used to make a big lie stick. We can expect nothing different from that experience of Jesus - when something good is underway there will be forces seeking to disrupt it. The greater the good, the greater the capacity for destruction if it is derailed. Jesus is our way back to God when we lose our bearings, and the source of our hope.

Children and Families material will look at the temptations of Jesus and help us to think about giving something up or taking up a form of discipline.

APCMs for our two parishes are now approaching. Gamlingay's is next Sunday 16th March with a bring-and-share lunch afterwards.

Everton's APCM is a little further away, on Sunday April 6th.

Lent Study



There will be a daytime group to discuss the week's readings for the Lent course, at the Rectory, 10.30am starting on Monday 10th March
Check with Hilary for evenings.

Concert at Ely Cathedral

Forgive a 'proud mum' moment advertising a concert in Ely Cathedral at 7.30 pm on Saturday 15th March, offering the opportunity to hear a top orchestra, conducted by David Young, accompanying Cambridge choirs in Vaughan Williams' *Sea Symphony*. Full details at www.cmp.cam.ac.uk.

NEWS FROM EVERTON

Congratulations to everyone who worked together to enable such a good farewell for Alan Pattle. We were blessed with good weather for the burial and there was a great turnout from Alan's friends. Particularly moving was to meet Pat and her daughter Alison who had met and continued to visit Alan in the Care Home. They found out about the funeral through social media and were pleased to be able to attend. Like many others, they were impressed by the lovely atmosphere and generous hospitality provided by the Soup and Social team after the service and burial. Truly an example of a village at its best.

This Sunday sees the Baptism (Christening) of Eliza Astell. This feels particularly appropriate with the 'Hope' theme for Lent this year - so good to be celebrating the beginning as well as marking the end of life.

RIP Roger Collings whose funeral takes place on Monday 24th March at 2pm

NEWS FROM GAMLINGAY

Simple Lunch is this week – Tuesday, 11th March, 12.30-2pm in the Church Hall



Churchyard Hedge:

A huge 'well done and thank you' to volunteers led and coordinated by Gwyn Williams – these before and after pictures show an amazing transformation. This work has been carried out through the Parish Council who have helped to defray costs. The Council is responsible for the churchyard upkeep due to its closed' status.



APCM, Sunday, 16th March, 11am after the service in Gamlingay.
There will be a Bring-and-Share Lunch after the meeting - sign-up sheet in church.

Quiz Night, 21st March, 7.30pm in the Church Hall.
There are a few places left on Jane's team, otherwise the Quiz is full.
Please let Jane know of any attendance changes.

Benefice Services and Church Events

Midweek said Eucharist services take place at St Mary's in Gamlingay every Wednesday at 9.30am unless otherwise advertised.

Sunday and Festival services in March

Sunday 9th March: Lent 1

9.30am Parish Eucharist at St. Mary's, Gamlingay
11.15am Parish Eucharist with Baptism of Eliza Astell at St. Mary's, Everton

Sunday 16th March: Lent 2

9.30am Parish Eucharist at St. Mary's, Gamlingay with a focus on healing followed by APCM and lunch
4pm Evensong at St. Mary's, Everton

Sunday 23rd March: Lent 3

9.30am Parish Eucharist at St. Mary's, Gamlingay
11.15am Parish Eucharist at St. Mary's, Everton

Sunday 30th March: Lent 4 - Mothering Sunday

9.30am Parish Eucharist at St. Mary's, Gamlingay with posy distribution
11.15am Parish Eucharist at St. Mary's, Everton with posy distribution

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

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.