

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



Weekly newsletter 11 November 2022



From Hilary...

The PCCs of our two parishes met together on Monday evening, on Zoom, with a Gamlingay-only PCC meeting immediately afterwards, also on Zoom. We shared finance information, looked towards our end of year reporting, and confirmed Christmas plans. God willing, we will be able to do things together this year in a way that has not been possible for the last two (see details below).

We continue with a run of funerals this Autumn; the national news contains a great deal of gloom; and many of us look with anxiety at our personal circumstances now, never mind what the future seems likely to hold. But (and there is always a 'but' with God) as Advent season approaches our calling is Hope, the theme of our first Advent week.

After this week's Remembrance Sunday comes the last Sunday before Advent which ends this short Kingdom season by celebrating Christ the King. Then we begin our season of expectant and penitent preparation for the celebrations at Christmas, when we remember the coming among us of God made human on whom our hope is founded. For Advent there will be a study again this year, planned to provide the possibility of personal preparation away from meetings together, as well as an opportunity to meet both in-person and remotely. Please sign up in church or by email to Hilary if you are interested.

Rest in Peace Philip Gorton

It was with great sadness that we learned last week of the departure from this life of Philip Gorton, early on Thursday morning and not long short of his 94th birthday.

Philip has been such a faithful presence at services in the Benefice, especially at Gamlingay, and it is hard to believe we shall not be sharing worship physically with him again. He will be much missed. Our thoughts and prayers have been with Lindy and the rest of the family since Philip went into hospital and continue with them as arrangements are being made for what is planned to be a celebratory funeral - not confirmed at time of writing but provisionally booked for around the middle of the day on 23rd November. Philip has been very clear about what he wanted for this service, so we hope (and expect) for a great send-off. Do be there if you can.

I have known Philip for a comparatively short time - four years at the end of a long and passionately full life, and two years of that disrupted and limited by Covid. In the end, his fierce independence and passionate concern for life and faith was not enough to keep him here, but Philip has lived life to the full into extreme old age, sometimes to the alarm of those around him! I am sorry not to have known Philip in his prime, though I've no doubt it wouldn't have always been an easy relationship! My abiding memory of Philip will be of the many ways he tried to take action, or get others to, to improve life in and beyond the church in some way. There are others much more qualified than I to extol Philip's life achievements, and we shall be listening to some of them in a couple of weeks' time. Here, I would just like to pay personal tribute to all that Philip has given and done, including the setting up of the 'Friends of St Mary's' and particularly for his and Lindy's generous hospitality, not least to myself and Norman when we first arrived and since. Philip goes to the Maker he passionately sought to serve with my love and the confidence that he is safely home and at peace.

Services and Church Events for November

Sunday 13th November - Remembrance Sunday

Gamlingay	9.30am Said Communion service at St Mary the Virgin 10.45am Ceremony at the War Memorial followed by service at the Baptist Church
Everton	10.55am Ceremony at the War Memorial (St Mary's Churchyard) followed by service in church
Hatley St George	No service, but Church open and decorated for Remembrance

Monday 14th November

1.30pm	Funeral Pauline Dodsworth, Gamlingay
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Wednesday 16th November

9.30am	Midweek communion at Gamlingay
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Friday 18th November

7.30pm	Envelope stuffing party, Gamlingay Church Hall
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Sunday 20th November Christ the King (Sunday next before Advent)

9.30am	Parish Eucharist at Gamlingay
11.15am	Parish Communion at Everton

Wednesday 23rd November

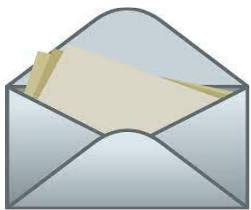
9.30am	Midweek communion at Gamlingay
Time tbc	Funeral Philip Gorton

Sunday 27th November Advent Sunday (Benefice services)

10am	Benefice Eucharist at Gamlingay
4.00 pm	Benefice Advent Evening/Carol Service at Everton

Wednesday 30th November - NO Service at Gamlingay

December dates on the next page....



SOS!
Stuffers needed urgently!



If you can possibly spare the time, **PLEASE** come and join our annual Stuffing Party -

Friday 18th November

7.30pm

Gamlingay Church Hall

We will, as usual, be holding a Grand Draw in conjunction with the Christmas Fair on 10th December. We have a book of raffle tickets and a letter for every house in the village and they need 'stuffing' into envelopes prior to delivery. You only have to sit and 'stuff' and many hands make light work so why not join us for a convivial evening of folding, inserting, chatting and maybe enjoying a cup/glass of something?

THANK YOU!

Services and Church Events for December

Sunday 4th December Advent 2

8am	Eucharist at Hatley St George - to be confirmed
9.30am	Parish Eucharist at Gamlingay
11.15am	Parish Communion at Everton

Saturday 10th December - Christmas Fair, Gamlingay

Sunday 11th December Advent 3

9.30am	Parish Eucharist at Gamlingay
11.15am	Parish Communion at Everton

Sunday 18th December Advent 4

10am	Benefice Eucharist at Gamlingay
4pm	Christmas Carol Service at Everton
6pm	Christmas Carol Service at Gamlingay

Wednesday 21st December

9.30am	Communion at Gamlingay
7.00pm	Christmas Carol Service at Hatley St George

Saturday 24th December Christmas Eve

3.00pm	Christingle Service at Everton
4.00pm	Nativity procession, Gamlingay
4.30pm	Christingle and Nativity Service at Gamlingay
11.30pm	First Communion of Christmas (Midnight Mass) at Gamlingay

Sunday 25th December Christmas Day

8.30am	Hatley Christmas Communion
10 am	Christmas Family Eucharist at Gamlingay
10am	Christmas Morning Service at Everton

Wednesday 27th Holy Innocents

9.30am	Communion at Gamlingay TBC
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Sunday 1st January New Year's Day (Naming and circumcision of Christ)

10am	Benefice New Year service celebrating the Circumcision of Christ at Gamlingay
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NEWS FROM EVERTON

We are delighted to welcome Beverley Darlow onto the PCC, coopted at Monday's shared meeting. Everton PCC will meet as a single parish in the near future. Everton looks like ending the year 'in the black' thanks to the generosity of those who support the church. The Gift Day raised £2,645 - special thanks once again to everyone who generously supports the church in this way.

NEWS FROM HATLEY

Permission has been given to trim the yew trees in Hatley St George churchyard. There is no decision yet on when this will be done, but obviously it will be some time in the next few months, outside the bird nesting season. A quinquennial inspection is due this year, as discussed at PCC, but may have to be postponed for financial reasons.

NEWS FROM GAMLINGAY

The Christmas Day Lunch idea seems to have 'legs' but is awaiting venue information. Do contact Hilary if you would like to be involved in any way.



Churchyard Jubilee Project - draft plan presented to the PCC is to be discussed by a wider group before finalizing. Contact Alec Hissett if you are interested in having your views taken into account.

Gamlingay Finances are not as healthy as Everton's in terms of meeting the Share - Gamlingay's Share, at time of writing, is underpaid by £15,848. However, we have funds to pay off a significant part of this shortfall this month, leaving some £5K to find before the end of the year. If we raid our small reserves and add those to the expected outcome of the fundraising events already planned (i.e. if they match last year) then we should JUST make it.

THANK YOU to everyone who put work in at Harvest, and at the Village show. The gap was closed by around £2.5K through the following contributions:

Gift Day:	£1,531.49
Harvest Service:	£570.70
Harvest Concert:	£454.55
Village Show refreshments	£430.35

Also, special thanks to Nick who continues to act as Treasurer for us despite his hugely busy life.

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 - 4pm.

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.

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