

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



Weekly newsletter 16 December 2022



From Hilary...

This week hasn't worked out as planned, so your understanding and support, already given this last week, for adjustments is much appreciated and it will possibly also be needed for next week and beyond.

As there is a risk that Advent becomes subsumed into Christmas, we (Norman and I and the rest of our family) have been brought up short with things not turning out as we'd expected. From 'all's perfect' with the expected grandchild due in early January, we have moved to 'cause for concern' as the last scans have brought questions about the baby's development which may well mean an induced birth before Christmas, possibly even this weekend. As we have been challenged to maintain hope, faith and even joy (our Advent themes so far) we seek to express love in the most appropriate way - wanting the ultimate good of the other, paying attention to what God is saying in this situation.

All being well, the services are as advertised below in our parishes. Do help to publicise them - it would be lovely to see some of our friends who haven't really been back since Covid and Gamlingay church closure, come along to celebrate this Christmas at one or some of our services.

Advent Study

This year's sessions end with Week 4 thinking about Mary and Love. It is going to be something of a challenge staying with Advent, but the effort will pay off for those who can do that.

The Zoom session this last week will be on Tuesday to accommodate Hatley St George Carol Service on the Wednesday. The morning face-to-face session will be led by Valerie Miller as Hilary deals with other commitments.

Zoom codes Meeting ID: 827 1111 6762 Passcode: 342373

Carol Services

We have three carol services in the week leading up to Christmas, the two on Sunday 18th and the one at Hatley on Wednesday at 7pm (the latter displaces the Zoom Advent evening session). There is no expectation that everyone should attend both Sunday Carol services, but there is an Advent Communion in the Morning for the whole Benefice at Gamlingay so that those who choose can complete their Advent with Communion. The Hatley service will be full of Hatley people (I will try for a Zoom broadcast as well, since that seemed to work last year when we were limited in numbers) so I am encouraging people to attend in their own village, apart of course from those of us involved with the music, who will be doubling or trebling up.



Are you on Face Book? If so, you can help a local charity to gain funds - read on...

Romsey Mill is a charity committed to overcoming disadvantage, challenging injustice and promoting social inclusion with young people, children and families. Each year, the charity works with over 2,000 individuals and families, from Cambridge city and across areas of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough

So, how can you help?

Well, the charity is in the top 3 of a Charity of the Year competition, and the winning charity will take home £25,000 towards their work. This is BIG money. Would you consider taking 2 minutes and casting your vote for them here?:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1639546576459752/permalink/1639548353126241/>

This Week

Sunday 18th December Advent 4

(It's the World Cup final, but if that matters to you, maybe watch a recording later?)

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

Wednesday 21st December

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| 9.30am | Communion at Gamlingay |
| 7pm | Christmas Carol Service at Hatley St George |



Christmas

Saturday 24th December Christmas Eve

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| 3pm | Christingle and Pop-Up Nativity Service at Everton |
| 4pm | 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

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

Wednesday 28th December Holy Innocents

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| 9.30am | Communion at Gamlingay TBC |
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Advanced notice into January

Sunday 1st January New Year's Day (Naming and circumcision of Christ)

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| 10am | Benefice service at Gamlingay celebrating the Circumcision of Christ and New Year. |
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Sunday 8th January Celebrating Epiphany

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| 9.30am | Eucharist at Gamlingay, |
| 11.15am | Communion at Everton |
| 3pm | Charity Concert at Gamlingay |

Institution Service

Hilary is to be formally instituted as Rector of the Benefice parishes on
Sunday 15th January at 2.30pm in Gamlingay.

All welcome, an opportunity to celebrate ministry in these parishes and meet the new Archdeacon. The service is now in planning and is intended for the whole Benefice, although it takes place at Gamlingay for capacity reasons.

NEWS FROM EVERTON

The first Tuesday Lunch was well attended and well received last week. There is another this coming week - all welcome.

Don't forget our Pop-Up Nativity at 3pm on Christmas Eve. Come dressed as your favourite nativity character or just come and join in anyway with the re-telling of the Christmas story as we celebrate with Christingles.'

NEWS FROM GAMLINGAY

Thank you for a couple of responses to requests towards soup lunches. More would be great! We hope to start in the New Year.

Christmas Fair

A huge **WELL DONE** to everyone who worked so hard to make the day so successful. Miss Alice's dancers were enchanting and brought smiles to everyone's faces - and how good that the grates for the heating system don't clank now! The stall holders brought a range of delightful items, the refreshments were plentiful, excellent value and delicious, the church was warm and welcoming and looked lovely and the draw was well-supported - altogether a good day, Thank you Jane O, Andrew and all the workers.

End of Year Finance Update

Thank you **so** much to everyone who has made it possible to meet our Parish Share for this year once again. The Christmas Fair and Quiz fund-raising efforts produced just over £3,000, which has made the difference along with the other Autumn efforts. Thanks be to God and those through whom he has worked. Although we didn't have all the money in the account (delay in HMRC Gift Aid claim being met) we have been able to pay helped by an interest-free loan that will be repaid from the Gift Aid when it comes in.

Christmas Lunch

Details of the methodology are still being finalised, but Hilary and Norman, Adrian and Amanda and several others from GBC are providing a meal and fellowship for Christmas lunch and early afternoon. It's not too late to sign up to come along, but there are lots of offers of help outside of that. Thank you to everyone who has offered, we may not be taking all those up, it's hands on the day that will count most.

New Year Charity Concert

Tickets are now available from Carla and the Hub as well as church, and also can now be paid for on-line. Help in providing refreshments will be welcome, though details will probably be finalised after Christmas. Offers of finger-food welcome, to Dawn Martin please.

Tuesday lunches will start in the New Year. More details from Hilary.

Thank you!
From Jane Orchiston

Huge thanks to all who helped to make last Saturday's Christmas Fair such a success. The magnificent sum of £2,666.46 was raised for church funds.

Special thanks to

- The Grand Draw organisers
- Those who helped set up and clear away.
- Andrew for providing and erecting the stalls.
- Alice Lucas for the beautiful dancing display
- Gamlingay Community choir for leading the singing of carols.
- The stall holders and those who helped staff St Mary's stalls
- All those who donated items of any kind.
- Those who came and supported the Christmas fair.
- Santa for stopping by at his busiest time of the year.



And, of course, many thanks and congratulations to Jane herself for masterminding and co-ordinating the whole event.

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.

FOR NEXT WEEK ONLY, please let Ian Parker have any articles or pictures for the newsletter by Tuesday evening to iangparker@hotmail.com

Contact details below show who to contact in each parish:

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