

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



Weekly newsletter 23 December 2022



With good wishes to all readers of this newsletter for a relaxing, joyous, healthy and peaceful Christmas

From Hilary...

As our long Advent comes to an end this weekend, and we also come to the end of 2022 in the following week, a HUGE thank you to everyone who has given time, money and talent this year, your work is very much appreciated, whether it has been highly visible or behind the scenes.

Thank you to Brenda and Ian for continuing to help keep us in touch through this newsletter. There won't be a separate one next week but the service mailing will go out with a Zoom link and any key information.

Christmas Carol services have been much enjoyed by those who attended- **thank you** and **well done** to all our musicians for helping lead our celebrations, and to those who read for us in each of the churches in the re-telling of the Christmas Good News.

Twelve days of Christmas

The celebration for Christmas itself (rather than the anticipation of it) begins on Sunday (Christmas Day) starting with the midnight service at 11.30pm on Saturday in Gamlingay.

Christmas Day services are as advertised. The season ends for western Christians at Epiphany, when the Orthodox Church starts its Christmas celebrations and we continue to Candlemas celebrating the Light of the World, born in human form at Christmas.

There are meditations for each of the days between Christmas and Epiphany 'Follow the Star' (app available) offering reflections for each day from Christmas to Epiphany.

These are available online; I will collect them for anyone who lets me know they would like.

This year we celebrate Epiphany in church on 8th January with services in both the parish churches.



Christmas Services

Saturday 24th December Christmas Eve

3.00pm Christingle and Pop-Up Nativity Service at Everton

4.00pm Nativity procession 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 St George Communion

10am Christmas Family Eucharist at Gamlingay

10am Christmas Morning Service at Everton

Wednesday 27th No communion service at Gamlingay

Services for January

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

10am Benefice service at Gamlingay celebrating the Circumcision of Christ and New Year.

Sunday 8th January Celebrating Epiphany

9.30am Eucharist at Gamlingay

11.15am Holy Communion at Everton

3pm Charity Concert at Gamlingay in aid of Pancreatic Cancer research

NEWS FROM EVERTON

Pop-up Nativity and Christingle at Everton 3pm on Christmas Eve:

Come along dressed as your favourite Nativity character, or just be there, to share in celebrating the human birth of the Light of the World, telling the nativity story and distributing Christingles.

There will be two collections, the main one is for the Children's Society, which gives us some of the materials and helps vulnerable young people in all sorts of circumstances (envelopes available from School or Church) and there will also be a loose collection on a separate plate for Church funds.

The second Tuesday Lunch took place this week, well done indeed to the Emma and friends for this initiative.

Stephen Cotterell gives us a reflection for the First Day of Christmas - Follow the Star

How wise were the wise men?

The Magi followed the star to the land of the Jews it led to, but when they got there they resorted to their own wisdom as to where to look, and went to the King's palace - the obvious place to find a new-born king. But in so doing they risk jeopardising the whole point of their search. Herod, the self-styled King, is afraid for his power, and once alerted to the presence of another King, is hell-bent on destruction. The wise men return to following the star, to find the king in an unexpected place.



So what does that mean for us? We are called, like those first Magi, to follow the Christ light, to find God in unexpected places, turning worldly values on their head, and trusting not in our own wisdom, but in what God has set us to.

NEWS FROM GAMLINGAY

Update from Niassa

As many of you will know St Mary's and the folk in Gamlingay have been supporting our brothers and sisters in Niassa in Mozambique for many years. Fr Mateus Nkito has sent this update to Chris Martin this week:

Greetings to all church members there, Brother Chris.

Currently the church in Niassa is getting a little balanced and we hope with the prayer, that the new diocesan leadership will be organized and united.

The situation of terrorism in Mozambique, particularly in the northern region, is; A great threat, and their attacks are unpredictable. Although we do not have frequent attacks on Niassa, fear in communities is greater.

We have an accommodation center of the victims of terrorism in Lichinga, which is in the capital of Niassa.

Fr. NTIKO

2022 - Celebrating highs and lows

Thank you **so** much to everyone who has made it possible to make 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

If you would like to make a financial donation to support this initiative, please give to Hilary. We expect there to be plenty of food, so last minute additions are still possible, for the Churches Christmas Lunch.

New Year Charity Concert - Epiphany

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 being finalised after Christmas, offers of finger-food welcome, to Dawn Martin.



On behalf of the team at the Food Project a HUGE THANK YOU for your support throughout 2022. The response to our Christmas appeal was amazing and we were able to provide a hamper including turkey, veggies & lots of other foodie treats for 28 families in and around Gamlingay. We have also been able to give presents to children as well as adults. This time last year we were supporting 18 families, as you can see that number has nearly doubled – in fact we had 4 new referrals last week and 2 this week so far. We look forward to your continued support next year.

Grand Christmas Draw

A huge thank you to everyone who bought raffle tickets for the Draw, the total raised was £1,337 which, as reported last week, will help us meet our financial commitments for this year.

Also thank you to everyone who donated prizes, including a donation of the £100 first prize and a food hamper from Morrisons Supermarket in Camborne.

Alec.

Twelve days of Christmas

There is an interpretation of the well-known song that sees in it encoded Christian (Catholic) teaching. Although this is probably not original and in some cases takes a bit of struggling to fit, Christians can still use the idea to reflect on faith. Maybe you can think of better versions than the one here?

A partridge in a pear tree Christ the son of God - partridges being understood as willing to sacrifice themselves for their young as Christ died for us all.

Two turtle doves - the two main parts for the Bible - Old and New Testaments that tell the story of God's work to reconcile creation back to the Master

Three French hens - faith hope and love (three of our Advent week themes this year) as elaborated in 1 Corinthians 13 by St Paul. - or the persons of the Trinity, Father Son and Holy Spirit.

Four Calling Birds - the Gospel writers (Evangelists) Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

Five gold rings - the five books of our Old Testament which make up the Pentateuch - the Torah (Law) that Jesus refers to when he speaks of 'the Law and the Prophets'

Six geese a-laying - the six days of creation when everything was formed (hatched) by God.

Seven swans a-swimming - the seven gifts of the Spirit prophecy, ministry, teaching, exhortation, giving, leading, and compassion as identified by St Paul.

Eight maids a-milking - the hard and menial and female work of milking symbolising God's care for all people, turning worldly values on their heads in the Beatitudes - blessed are the poor in spirit, those who mourn, the meek, those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, the merciful, the pure in heart, the peacemakers, and those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake.

Nine ladies dancing - the fruits of the Spirit - love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control bringing life in its fulness expressed in the dance.

Ten Lords a-leaping - Lords as judges the ten commandments



Eleven pipers piping - the number of the disciples when Judas was lost to them, as they began to tell the Good news of who Jesus was.

Twelve Drummers Drumming - twelve elements of the Apostle's Creed

I believe in -

God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord

Conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit born of the Virgin Mary.

Suffered under Pontius Pilate, crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell.

On the third day, he rose again.

He ascended into heaven seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Holy Spirit (*lord and giver of life*),

Holy catholic Church (*the company of Christ in time and eternity - not a denomination*)

Communion of saints, (*the saved are a community through their partaking of the sacrament of Holy Communion*)

The forgiveness of sins, (*Jesus reconciles humanity through his death, he has the power to set free humanity from the power of sin and death*)

The resurrection of the body, life everlasting (*in Christ's resurrection a new body is given that is not of this world of time and space and not subject to decay*)

There will be no newsletter next week. NEXT EDITION 6th JANUARY 2023

Please let Brenda Elcome have any articles or pictures for the newsletter by Tuesday evening 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.