

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



Weekly newsletter 20 January 2023



From Hilary...

Thank you very much indeed, and well done to everyone who was involved in the Institution service on Sunday 15th. Thank you too to those who wished me well on my birthday. My thanks especially, but not exclusively, to the providers of delicious refreshments in church afterwards, and helpers to get the food out and away at the ensuing party in the hall.

The service was an occasion when at least some of us were able to come together and renew commitment to our spiritual journey and be reminded of our Ely Diocese mission statement about being generous and visible people of Jesus Christ. Thank you to the bellringers who rang a quarter peal in the afternoon before the service.

Our thoughts and prayers are with those who could not be there, for good reasons (to do with health and family commitments). Thank you to those who did make it. It was a great pleasure to welcome Richard Harlow, who follows Hugh McCurdy in the role of Archdeacon of Huntingdon and Wisbech and his wife Kayla. Richard spoke to us of the 'hedgehog principle', about identifying what you are good at and keeping doing it to the best of your ability. He also reminded us all that what the Church is there for is to spread God's love and thereby make life better for all around.

Epiphany Season continues as we celebrate further aspects of how Jesus was shown to be the Light of the World for all nations. This Sunday is again about calling, as we have Matthew's version of the calling of Simon (Peter) and Andrew and the brothers James and John. Next Sunday we return to the earlier story of Simeon and Anna recognising the infant Messiah in the temple as we end Epiphany and our thoughts turn towards Lent and Easter.

Christian Unity

Every year, at this time, some of the churches have a week of prayer for Christian Unity. It began on Wednesday, which happens to be our midweek communion in Gamlingay.

Living in Love and Faith

The following press release comes from the Church of England after six years of reflection. Online comments have already confirmed Archbishop Justin Welby's prediction that for some this is not enough and for others it is much too much.....

'For the first time, under historic plans outlined today (Friday 20th January), same-sex couples will be able to come to church to give thanks for their civil marriage or civil partnership and receive God's blessing.

- *Full details including the bishops' paper, prayers and background information are available online on the Church of England website <https://www.churchofengland.org>*
- *Living in Love and Faith was initiated in 2017 after Synod rejected a report from the bishops offering no change. Responding to that vote the Archbishops of Canterbury and York called for a "radical new Christian inclusion founded in scripture, in reason, in tradition, in theology and the Christian faith as the Church of England has received it – based on good, healthy, flourishing relationships, and in a proper 21st century understanding of being human and of being sexual."*

Services for January

Please note Wednesday midweek morning services during the remainder of January will be at the Rectory to help us keep warm and conserve fuel.

Also note that the evening service for January 29th (Feast of the Presentation, next week) is now planned to be in Gamlingay. The time is to be confirmed next week when those who would like to attend have expressed views and given their availability. It will be a service of reflection and light, with whatever music we can gather- could be live or recorded, depending on who and what is available.

Saturday 21st January

4.30pm Service for Hunts District Bell Ringing Association

Sunday 22nd January Third Sunday of Epiphany (Christian Unity Sunday)
8am BCP Communion at Hatley St George - to be confirmed
9.30am Parish Eucharist at Gamlingay
11.15am Parish Eucharist at Everton

Wednesday 25th January

9.30am Midweek Eucharist - Gamlingay Rectory

Sunday 29th January Celebrating The Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas)
9.30am Eucharist at Gamlingay celebrating Light
11.15am Eucharist celebrating Light at Everton
Time tbc Evening service of music celebrating light - **NB** now in Gamlingay

Wednesday 1st February

9.30am Midweek Eucharist Gamlingay

Services for February (some to be confirmed)

Sunday 5th February 3 Before Lent (Septuagesima)
9.30am Parish Eucharist at Gamlingay
11.15am Parish Eucharist at Everton

Wednesday 8th February NO Midweek Eucharist Gamlingay

Sunday 12th February 2 Before Lent (Sexagesima)
9.30am Parish Eucharist at Gamlingay
11.15am Parish Eucharist at Everton

Wednesday 15th February

9.30am Midweek Eucharist Gamlingay

Sunday 19th February Next before Lent (Quinquagesima)
9.30am Parish Eucharist at Gamlingay
11.15am Parish Eucharist at Everton - ?followed by APCM?

Ash Wednesday 22nd February

9.30am Midweek Eucharist Gamlingay
7.30pm Music for Ash Wednesday with Eucharist at Everton?

Sunday 26th February First Sunday of Lent
9.30am Parish Eucharist at Gamlingay
11.15am Parish Eucharist at Everton

Wednesday 1st March

9.30am Midweek Eucharist Gamlingay

Bell Ringers Annual District Meeting

Saturday 21st January 2023

The Annual District Meeting is to be held on Saturday January 21st at St Mary's Church, Church St, Gamlingay, Sandy SG19 3JJ

There will be ringing from 3-4.30pm, a short service at 4.30pm, tea at 5pm, followed by the business meeting from 5.30pm to 6.30pm (timings may vary a little on the day). Ringing after the meeting if people are keen.

NEWS FROM EVERTON

There is no one to play the organ at Everton next Sunday (29th Jan, The Feast of the Presentation) - talk to Hilary if you know anyone with hidden (or public!) musical talents which they might share to enhance our worship. The morning service is likely to be said Holy Communion.

NEWS FROM GAMLINGAY

We are having another **Tuesday lunch** at the Church Hall this week (24th) to see how it goes. The thought has been floated that we go to Wednesday instead but, before thinking of any change, we will try for a few more weeks to see if alternating with the Everton Tuesday lunch works once people get to know it is happening. Please invite people along, and ideally tell Hilary if you do know of someone who is coming. There may well still be some party food left over from Sunday!

Memory Lane also meets on the 24th (the same day as the lunch) for the first time in 2023 in the back room at the EcoHub from 2pm to 4pm. Activities and refreshments in friendly company.

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.

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