

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



Weekly newsletter 17 November 2023



From Hilary:

Sunday services for **Remembrance Sunday** this last week were much appreciated. Thank you to Lucy and Chris for enabling all three places of worship to have Remembrance services this year. Although the service in Gamlingay was not enhanced by the cold (the boiler having failed just before the weekend) it was good to have Guides with us, among other community people, and thank you to Ann and Gerry for the coffee afterwards to warm us up. Adrian from GBC gave a great reminder of the importance of Remembering while Chris' sermon was particularly appreciated in Everton, courageously and effectively tackling issues of war and peace at Remembrance in the light of the conflicts currently in the headlines. At my request [Chris has shared the text of his talk, which is attached](#) alongside this newsletter for those who would like to experience it for the first time or revisit.

A reminder is here of the way in which we can support Christians financially in the cause of peace in the troubled Holy Land: [The Jerusalem and the Middle East Church Association - Donate now \(cafonline.org\)](#), this an Anglican charity supporting the Anglican Church across Jerusalem, the Middle East and North Africa,

Memorial Services will take place in the two parish churches this next Sunday.

Everton: 4pm Evensong, led by Chris Miller, will include intercessions naming those to be remembered.

Gamlingay: The service will be later in the afternoon at 5pm. **Please let Hilary know of any names you would like remembering at the respective memorial services.** The Gamlingay sign-up sheet is currently fairly empty. I'm guessing this will be true at Everton also. You can send names by email or sign up on the Sunday itself. We will automatically add names of people whose services have taken place in respective churches during this last year.

The Real Advent Calendar

See the article about '[Why a Real Advent Calendar](#)' (*separate attachment*). This year the calendar contains a booklet with day-by-day telling of the story along with occasional interesting facts and activities. There is something for each day of December (Advent technically begins on the 4th Sunday before Christmas, which is 3rd December this year, but the calendar begins on the 1st). At the time of writing, I have 10 available but can order more if necessary.

Advent Study material is in preparation, using the Jesse Tree again this year alongside the Sunday themes. There probably won't be weekly groups, unless there is a call for them, but everyone is invited to join in with following the sequence. We shall be using the 'Follow the Star' material for the 12 days of Christmas from Christmas Eve onwards. There will also be Advent Windows round the village, all being well.

NEWS FROM EVERTON

Damp walls in the church are being seen to, but the PCC is expecting this will need long-term solutions which may take time to organise. On this, and other matters, the **PCC** will report when members have been able to gather, which has proved impossible this week.

Community Soup and Social presented by the Community Volunteers was well attended and well received, as ever. Names are being taken for 12th December meal, which will be special for Christmas.

Church Christmas Coffee Morning on Saturday 2nd December (yes, it is Saturday - there may be a rogue poster out there with Sunday on it!). Preparations are well underway. Contributions to stalls are very welcome but, most of all, please do come along.



NEWS FROM GAMLINGAY

PCC on Tuesday was seriously depleted by illness and so not quorate (i.e., not enough people to make a valid voting group) however much important work was done, with proposals made for actions to be ratified by email by those unable to attend. Plans include possible tuning of the organ before Christmas. The Ensemble of Friends will be giving a concert on 10th December (Sunday after the Christmas Fair) and a New Year concert is being planned for the afternoon of 7th January.

Simple Lunch takes place this week, (21st November) sharing food and fellowship. Anyone is welcome to come and enjoy a simple lunch which includes hot soup. This is being advertised especially, but not exclusively, to Memory Lane friends. The next one, the last of the year, will take place on 5th December with more festal than just simple food on offer.

The next **Memory Lane will be on 28th November**: A Christmas themed Tea Dance, welcoming back our friends who facilitated the last one. **The event in December will be on the 19th** - a Christmas Special with carols and other Christmas-themed activities.

EASY FUNDRAISING

Thank you to everyone who used this facility recently. The sum of £60.94 has now been paid into church funds. Please continue using this service when making online purchases. **Every little helps!**

Quiz

Friday, 17th November 7.30pm in the Church Hall. Teams of 4 to 6 - £5.00 a head - bring your own drink - nibbles provided. Individuals are invited to come along and help to form a team. Let us know if you're coming to reserve your place. Ian Parker is the Quiz Master and provides an entertaining evening.

CHRISTMAS at Gamlingay

Grand Draw Tickets

Envelopes are now being distributed around all the properties in the village. If anyone can help deliver any, please contact Alec Hissett. Unfortunately, with the church having to be locked, the only times that the envelopes can be collected are Sunday and Wednesday mornings before or after the services. They are laid out by street at the back of church- please help yourself. Also, please buy tickets and return the stubs to Alec.

Many thanks to Ros and Alec for all their hard work organising the [Grand Draw](#). (see poster attached)

Thanks to all who came to the Stuffing Party - including Ann Davis who took the photo!



Christmas Fair

Saturday, 9th December, 12 noon to 4pm. Santa, Miss Alice, School of Dance, Gamlingay Community Choir, stalls of different kinds and decorated Christmas trees. Refreshments by our wonderful team of bakers. Grand Draw at the end! £1.00 entry fee. If you would like to advertise your organisation with a decorated tree, then please let us know at stmarysxmas@outlook.com.

The Ensemble of Friends, Christmas Concert

Sunday, 10th December at 3.00pm. Directed by Dr Douglas Coombes, MBE, will be singing Christmas music a Capella. Some faces familiar to us all. Tickets £10.00, refreshments available. Tickets will be available from the Hub or email stmarysxmas@outlook.com.

Guild of St. Mary

This month we are welcoming Corinne Price to our Guild meeting who will be talking about The Swiss Gardens. The meeting is on Monday 20th November, 7:30pm in the Church Hall. This is an **open meeting for all** – interested visitors (male or female) would be very welcome to join us. The usual charges apply - £3 per member, £5 per visitor which includes tea/coffee, biscuit and a raffle ticket.



This is our last open meeting of the year. However, members can look forward to our usual Christmas party in December.

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

Service information and dates

Sunday 19th November, 2 Before Advent

9.30am Gamlingay Eucharist and Healing Service
4pm Everton Evensong and memorial time
5pm Memorial Service at Gamlingay

Wednesday 22nd November

9.30am Midweek Eucharist at Gamlingay

Sunday 26th November, Christ the King (last before Advent)

9.30am Parish Eucharist at Gamlingay
11.15am Parish Eucharist Everton

Wednesday 29th November

9.30am Midweek Eucharist at Gamlingay

DECEMBER SERVICES

Sunday 3rd December, Advent 1

9.30am All Age Parish Eucharist, Gamlingay
11.15am Everton Parish Eucharist
4.00pm Advent Carol Service at Gamlingay

Wednesday 6th December

9.30am Midweek Eucharist at Gamlingay

Sunday 10th December, Advent 2

9.30am Gamlingay Parish Eucharist
11.15am Everton Parish Eucharist

Wednesday 13th December

9.30am Midweek Eucharist at Gamlingay

Sunday 17th December, Advent 3

9.30am Gamlingay Benefice Eucharist
4pm Everton Carol Services
6pm Gamlingay Carol Services

Wednesday 20th December

9.30am Midweek Eucharist at Gamlingay
7.30pm Hatley Carol Service

Sunday 24th Advent December, Advent 4/Christmas Eve

9.30am Gamlingay service for Advent 4 - Eucharist and Nativity
3pm Everton Christingle service (NB correction to Gazette)
4.30pm Gamlingay Christingle
Gamlingay Walking Nativity precedes Christingle.
11.30pm First Communion of Christmas (Midnight Mass) - Gamlingay

Monday 25th December, Christmas Day

9.30am Gamlingay Family-Friendly Eucharist
10am Everton carols and readings
?Hatley St. George nativity or other family-friendly service TBC

Wednesday 27th December

9.30am Midweek Eucharist TBC

Sunday 31st December (New Year's Eve)

10am Benefice Service at Gamlingay

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.