

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



## Weekly newsletter 1 December 2023



### *From Hilary:*

Only 3 weeks to Christmas now, as **Advent** begins. Advent Calendars, which started on the first day of December, are already 3 days in as our Advent worship begins. There will be something in church and online for anyone wanting to take the Sunday readings and themes further. This first Sunday we have a theme of Hope/The Prophets.

*As the first Advent wreath candle is lit...*

People of God: awake! The day is coming soon when you shall see God face to face.

Remember the ways and the works of God. God calls you out of darkness to walk in the light of his coming.

You are God's children.

**Lord, make us one as we walk with Christ today and for ever. Amen.**

Revd. Lucy is incapacitated with sciatica and unable to take services until the New Year - Wednesday support team please note. Please hold her in prayers for healing, she will be missed.

### **Christmas Day Lunch**

Last year there was a Christmas lunch at the EcoHub on Christmas Day itself. This was initiated by GBC and contributed to by both churches. Plans are now well underway for this year's lunch, which is for anyone who would like to be there, particularly bearing in mind those who would not have resources to cook a full Christmas meal, or who would be on their own and would appreciate the company. The meal will be served to eat at 1pm, with people welcome to gather beforehand from about 12 noon. This lunch is for families as well as those on their own - last year several families made this their own Christmas Dinner. There will be food, company and entertainment.

Hilary from St Mary's and Liz from GBC are organising the food, while others will coordinate laying tables, clearing up and providing entertainment. If you would like to contribute in any of the following ways, please let Hilary know, your help and support would be very much appreciated.

- *Making a financial contribution*
- *Sponsoring Food or drink (you would be told what, once we know who can help in this way)*
- *Welcoming and helping serve at tables on the day.*
- *Setting up tables beforehand (Christmas Eve)*
- *Preparing food for others to cook, beforehand or on the day.*
- *Cooking food beforehand (at home)*
- *Helping in the kitchen on the day (one or two people needed for this)*
- *Delivery of hot meals to homes on the day*
- *Clearing up on the day (later in the afternoon)*

We are also collecting names of those wishing to attend and eat - not all the helpers need to do this, although helpers who can stay for the meal will be much-needed on the day.

Please publicise this meal and let us know who needs food, at home or at the Hub. Last year we catered for around 40 people, many but not all of whom contributed in some way - all are welcome on whatever basis. Present planning is for up to 60 people, so plenty of room.

## ***NEWS FROM EVERTON***

The **Church Christmas Coffee Morning** is this weekend **Saturday 2nd December 10am – 12 noon**. (See poster attached)

There is a request that Tombola bottles be brought to the Village Hall on Friday 1st (today as this is circulated).

The next **Soup Lunch** (last before Christmas) organised by Everton community volunteers is on Tuesday 12th December 12 - 2pm. Booking is required for this one.

## ***NEWS FROM GAMLINGAY***

**Simple Lunch** this next week, **5<sup>th</sup> December at 12.30pm in the Church Hall**, is the last before Christmas and food is planned to be rather more 'special' than 'simple'. Do come along if you are available - there's no charge as such but donations are welcome for the work of St Mary's church. It would be helpful to let Hilary or Jane O know if you are planning to attend. Simple Lunches start again in January, the first being on the 3rd Tuesday which is the 16th.

**Memory Lane Tea Dance** was much enjoyed, welcoming back our friends who facilitated the last one. **December 19th** is the last meeting of 2023 with carols and other Christmas-themed activities.

### **Light Switch-On**

This is being planned for Saturday, December 2nd in Gamlingay. Chris Miller is organising carol singing with the Community Choir. Do let him know if you can be part of the lead group (anyone is welcome to sing along!).

### **Christmas Cards**

Sadly, Traidcraft is no longer trading so there will be no new Christmas cards from them this year. We do have a few packs left from previous years which I have put at the back of church. I have also made some cards which I am willing to sell for church funds. These will also be at the back of church on Sundays.

**Valerie Miller**

***THE ENSEMBLE OF FRIENDS – CHRISTMAS CONCERT*** – [click here for the poster](#).

**Directed by Dr Douglas Coombes, MBE**

Sunday, 10<sup>th</sup> December at 3pm. Tickets £10 a head, accompanied children under 16 free, available from church or The Hub or by emailing [stmarysxmas@outlook.com](mailto:stmarysxmas@outlook.com). Refreshments available.

*From Sandra Macrow* - It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas.....



St Mary the Virgin, Gamlingay is thrilled to display the beautiful knitted and crocheted Christmas Tree, wreath and bunting outside church, along with a beautiful blanket and more bunting on display inside church. The project from Emma Knibbs is called 'The Gamlingay Squares for Christmas'. Here's what Emma said.....

*'A year in the making, with an amazing response resulting in 1600 squares, some from as far as Yorkshire, and a massive amount from a lovely lady in Biggleswade.*

*The frame was very kindly donated by David and Ben from Motor and Diesel Engineering, with Len Knowles giving his time for the drawings and Martin from Repfab Engineering in Billingborough for the powder coating.*

*Thank you to everyone involved'*

**Emma Knibbs**

Well done to Emma and her team of knitters, it really is amazing and must have taken many hours of work. Congratulations to you all it is an outstanding achievement.

If you get chance, come and have a look at the tree, it is very pretty both in the day and in the evening with its twinkly lights!



## Gamlingay CHRISTMAS FAIR



### GRAND DRAW

Tickets have been delivered to every household in the village. They will also be on sale at the Christmas Fair, when the draw will take place at the end of the event.

### CHRISTMAS FAIR – [click here for the poster](#)

Saturday, 9th December 12 noon to 5pm with dancing from Miss Alice's School of Dance at 3pm and Gamlingay Community Choir at 4pm. Various stalls, crafts and the usual refreshments including mulled wine and hot soup at lunch time. Santa will be visiting too!

Any group, who would like to advertise with a decorated Christmas tree, would be very welcome to display them at this event.

### **YOUR HELP IS URGENTLY REQUESTED!**

- *Volunteers to man stalls on the day.*
- *Able-bodied folk to help ferry equipment between the hall and the church on the Friday afternoon from 2pm and/or the Saturday morning from 9.30am and especially clearing up at 5pm.*
- *Donations of bottles and filled jars for the Tombola. (To Ros and Alec please)*
- *Suitable items to pack into the food hamper (2<sup>nd</sup> prize in the raffle)*
- *Bric-a-Brac items (either leave in the porch at 61 Fairfield or bring to church on a Sunday)*
- *Cakes for the refreshments – please let Brenda or Valerie know if you are able to provide.*

**For further information or to volunteer, please email**  
[stmarysxmas@outlook.com](mailto:stmarysxmas@outlook.com)

## Service information and dates

### **Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December**

10am – 12 noon      Everton Church Coffee Morning

### **Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December, Advent 1**

9.30am              All Age Parish Eucharist, Gamlingay

11.15am            Everton Parish Eucharist

4pm                  Advent Carol Service at Gamlingay

### **Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December**

12.30pm            ‘Simple Lunch’ with a festive theme, Gamlingay Church Hall.

### **Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December**

9.30am              Midweek Eucharist at Gamlingay

### **Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December**

12noon – 5pm      Gamlingay Church Christmas Fair

### **Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December, Advent 2**

9.30am              Gamlingay Parish Eucharist

11.15am            Everton Parish Eucharist

3pm                  Ensemble of Friends Concert of Christmas Music, Gamlingay church.

### **Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December**

9.30am              Midweek Eucharist at Gamlingay

### **Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December, Advent 3**

9.30am              Gamlingay Benefice Eucharist

4pm                  Everton Carol Service

6pm                  Gamlingay Carol Service

### **Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December**

9.30am              Midweek Eucharist at Gamlingay

7pm                  Hatley Carol Service

### **Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> 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 preceded by Walking Nativity

11.30pm            First Communion of Christmas (Midnight Mass) - Gamlingay

### **Monday 25<sup>th</sup> December, Christmas Day**

9.30am              Gamlingay Family-Friendly Eucharist

10am                Everton carols and readings

?11.30am          Hatley St. George nativity or other family-friendly service TBC

### **Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> December**

?9.30am            Midweek Eucharist TBC

### **Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> December (New Year's Eve)**

10am                Benefice Eucharist Service at Gamlingay

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