

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



Weekly newsletter 8 December 2023



From Hilary:

Advent began very busily last weekend with Saturday events in both parishes, then on Sunday wonderful hospitality at the Barn from GBC and a Benefice Advent Carol Service as well as our usual morning services. Although attended by a tiny congregation, the Carol Service was peaceful and moving. Well done to Chris, Andrew and the Benefice choir for their work of preparation as well as for the service itself.

This weekend promises to be no less busy in Gamlingay with the [Christmas Fair on Saturday](#) and the ['Ensemble of Friends' concert on Sunday at 3.00 pm](#). The Advent themes of this week are Peace/The Prophets (last week was Patriarchs, not Prophets as I wrote). Although the 'Joy' Sunday is the third of Advent (next week), this week's Advent Wreath prayer encourages us with both reaffirming the Hope of last week and seeking joy from sadness and darkness turning to light.

God can indeed change us if we allow that to happen. As we continue in Advent, we come to the Lord asking for healing for the pains we find it hard to let go of.

As the Advent wreath candle number 2 is lit

People of God: be glad! Your God delights in you, giving you joy for sadness and turning the dark to light. Be strong in hope therefore; for your God comes to save. You are God's children.

Lord, make us one in the love of Christ today and for ever. Amen.

NEWS FROM EVERTON

Coffee Morning this last Saturday was a lovely occasion - well done to Linda, Dorothy, Jane and Beverley together with all the other helpers. The event raised a wonderful £640.75.

Soup and Social: Tuesday 12th sees the last of the year run by Everton community volunteers. It is a special for Christmas, for which booking is essential. This one runs from 12 - 4pm.

NEWS FROM GAMLINGAY

Simple Lunch on Tuesday was the biggest yet with a lovely group of people enjoying one another's company and hospitality. This was the last before the New Year, the next one will be on the third Tuesday in January i.e. the 16th.



Memory Lane on **December 19th** is the last one of 2023 with carols and other Christmas-themed activities.

Light Switch-On

This was a great success but already seems ages ago! Despite the bitter cold a good crowd turned out, including children and dogs. Well done to the organisers, and all the contributors, including Chris and the Community Choir leading the carols throughout the event, and to all the food providers.

Christmas Day lunch - not too late to respond, but please do so this week - thank you to those who have already done so. A reminder that the lunch 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 appreciate the company and atmosphere. There will be food, company, and entertainment.

We are collecting names of those wishing to attend and eat, or who want a prepared meal at home, as well as offers of help - participants can do both or one only. The meal will be at 1pm but people are welcome to gather beforehand from about 12 noon - helpers will be there earlier so do come if you would like to.

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 way the following are needed. Please let Hilary know if you would like to help and in what way.

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



Gamlingay
CHRISTMAS FAIR



This Saturday, 9th December, 12 noon to 5pm,

- Miss Alice dancers at 3pm,
- Gamlingay Community Choir at 4pm.
- Lots of stalls.
- Trees - It's not too late to bring a decorated Christmas tree on Friday afternoon or Saturday morning.
- Refreshments available throughout including hot soup at lunch time, mulled wine, tea, coffee & cake

Items are still needed for the Bric-a-Brac stall. Please have a root around and see what you can find. If you need it collected, please contact Jane.

The hamper for the raffle needs a few more items.

Bottles and filled jars are still needed for the Tombola.

THE ENSEMBLE OF FRIENDS – CHRISTMAS CONCERT

This Sunday, 10th December at 3pm

Tickets £10 a head, accompanied children under 16 free.

The Ensemble of Friends concert with Dr Douglas Coombes directing is a wonderful way to spend Sunday afternoon listening to Christmas music. [Concert poster](#).

Refreshments available.

Contact details below show who to contact in each parish:

Hilary Young , Parish Priest	hilaryafyoung@gmail.com	650587
Lucy McKeown , Retired Assistant Priest	lucy@mckeown.garden	304487
Chris Miller , LLM/Reader	cfm55@btinternet.com	650779
Nick Ingles , Gamlingay/Hatley Treasurer	nickingles@me.com	07868 144830
Richard Astell , Everton Treasurer	richard@astell.co.uk	
Valerie Miller , Pastoral	vjm55@btinternet.com	650779
Sandra Macrow , LLM Children and Families' minister	sandramacrow@btinternet.com	07958 710703
Ann Davis , Gamlingay/Hatley PCC Secretary	anngamlingay@aol.com	
Alec Hissett	alechissett@hotmail.com	650052
Jane Butcher , Everton contact	Janebutcher59@googlemail.com	

December Services and Events

Saturday 9th December

12noon – 5pm Gamlingay Church Christmas Fair

Sunday 10th December, Advent 2

9.30am Gamlingay Parish Eucharist

11.15am Everton Parish Eucharist

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

Wednesday 13th December

9.30am Midweek Eucharist at Gamlingay

Sunday 17th December, Advent 3

9.30am Gamlingay Benefice Eucharist

4pm Everton Carol Service

6pm Gamlingay Carol Service

Wednesday 20th December

9.30am Midweek Eucharist at Gamlingay

7pm Hatley Carol Service **(NB Corrected time!)**

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 preceded by Walking Nativity

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

(Possible service at Hatley St. George TBC – please contact Hilary.)

Wednesday 27th December

NB: No midweek Eucharist.

Sunday 31st December (New Year's Eve)

10am Benefice Eucharist Service at Gamlingay

Sunday 7th January celebrating Epiphany

9.30am Gamlingay All Age Eucharist

11.15am Everton Parish Eucharist

3pm New Year Charity Concert, Gamlingay

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.

*A reminder that if you are temporarily
or permanently unable to attend church services and would like to receive communion in your own home, please let us know.
For Gamlingay and Hatley contact Hilary or Valerie.
For Everton contact Hilary.*