

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



Weekly newsletter 15 December 2023



From Hilary:

For me, personally, last week ended with a lot of extra car-related angst – at the time of wiring I'm still dealing with the insurance fallout - nothing seems to go smoothly in these challenging times. Thank you to everyone who has helped with lifts and understanding. There are challenges being faced by many of the church families, not least health-wise. May we find space for hope, peace and, this Sunday, Joy to find a foothold in our hearts and minds as we prepare for Christmas.

This weekend sees the Christmas Carol Services in both parish churches, and Hatley Carol service follows on Wednesday. As Revd. Lucy is incapacitated, we are limited in what we can do on Christmas morning, but there can still be a (said) service at Hatley at 8.30am if required. Please get in touch with Hilary to let her know if you would like to be there – the service can be tailored to fit the congregation.

Schools break up during next week as we approach the long weekend for Christmas. We shall be contacting schools to provide collection boxes for The Children's Society who introduced Christingle to the UK, and resource our Christingle services. All monies collected for the Society at these services goes to support their work in the UK and worldwide to help children in need. Boxes will also be available in the churches for those who know they will be attending or would like to contribute but cannot be at the services.

Special thanks to Woodview Farm Shop who have generously donated oranges for the Christingle services at both parish churches. (*See elsewhere in this newsletter for information on Christingle-making sessions.*)

As Advent wreath candle number 3 is lit

People of God: return! You are called to be God's own. From the mountains announce the good news. God comes in justice and peace, to all who follow his ways. You are God's children.

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

NEWS FROM EVERTON

'Soup and Social' offered by Everton Community volunteers for Christmas was a lovely affair. Donations were refused as attendees were treated to a visit from Father Christmas, David's amazing keyboard playing and a visit from Everton school children singing carols.

School Nativity: Reception and preschool children presented a delightful Nativity at Everton church on Monday and Tuesday last, with carols and a full cast of shepherds, angels, wise men, Mary and Joseph and a donkey. Thank you and well done to everyone who made this possible. We look forward to further visits from the school in the coming term.

NEWS FROM GAMLINGAY

Christmas Fair: This was a great success! Huge thanks to Jane Orchiston and the team she led, including Alec Hissett who, once again, managed the Draw so effectively. Miss Alice and her dancers were a wonderful part of the event, we thank them and everyone who contributed in so many ways for helping to make an event which was both enjoyable and profitable. Jane masterminded the whole event and would be the first to say how much hard work was done by so many. *(See Jane's report below)*

THANK YOU ALL – you know what you did, and it is much appreciated.

Ensemble of Friends Concert on the Sunday afternoon after the Christmas Fair was an a cappella choral concert with audience participation, much enjoyed by a small but discerning company. Well done to organisers, including the provision of refreshments. The funds for church, raised after paying expenses to the choir, were most welcome and we are very grateful to Douglas Coombes and his singers.

Some figures are still being analyzed but the total raised, from the Concert and Christmas Fair (including the Draw), is thought to be around £2,700. Well done everyone!

Memory Lane on December 19th this week will be the last one of 2023 with carols and other Christmas-themed activities. Our great sadness will be that this is the day of Maureen's funeral – Alan and Maureen have not been able to join us for some time due to ill health. Jose and David will be saying 'goodbye' to Maureen – we shall miss them all.

Farewell to Madeleine Marsh RIP – her memorial service at Aspenden was attended by several people who knew her when she was such a significant part of St Mary's and local life. Thank you, Sandy from GBC, for bringing back orders of service. Do ask if you would like one.

From Jane Orchiston...

It was a wonderful weekend! **GAMLINGAY CHRISTMAS FAIR**



Our Christmas Fair was a success! Many thanks to all who helped, with special thanks to Johnny Johnson for the heavy lifting and decorating the Christmas tree in church. Miss Alice's School of Dance brought in many visitors and performed beautifully in our limited space. Santa was quite busy so many thanks to him for taking the time to be with us! Thank you to the Community Choir for leading the spirited singing of Christmas carols. We don't have a final total yet, but the Grand Draw alone produced £1,148. Many thanks to Alec and Ros for all their hard work in making this happen! The refreshments masterminded by Brenda and Valerie were as always delicious. As one person said to me, the cakes are always delicious!

THE ENSEMBLE OF FRIENDS – CHRISTMAS CONCERT

A wonderful afternoon of music with the Friends, directed by Dr Douglas Coombes MBE, was enjoyed by all those who came. Many thanks to the Ensemble.

It was fun! Not to be missed if there is another one in the future.

Mulled wine and mince pies were served, and the total raised was £297.00 after expenses.

Coming up.....

Carol services on Sunday, 17th December: 4pm at Everton; 6pm at Gamlingay
Hatley's Carol Service is on Wednesday, 20th December at 7.00pm. ([See this poster](#))

Christingle making will be at 4pm on Saturday, 23rd December in church.
PLEASE COME AND HELP – The more of us there are the less time it takes!

Christingle Service is on Sunday, 24th December at 4.30pm after the Nativity Walk, which starts at 4pm.

New Year Charity Concert – Save the date!

Sunday, 7th January at 3pm.

As we approach Christmas, January 7th (Epiphany Sunday) seems a while away. However, we have a rather special event coming up then at St Mary's in Gamlingay – another New Year concert from the 'Soiree Ensemble'. This group of professional musicians, drawn together by Carla Robinson, will be playing a variety of popular classical music for chamber ensemble, featuring our church organ and Steph Laugharne. This is a charity concert with proceeds shared between St Mary's Church and, this year, Tibbs Dementia Care charity. Sarah from Tibbs will be with us to speak a little about their work.

Tickets are available from church, the Hub or Carla. [MORE DETAIL ON THIS POSTER.](#)

December Services and into January

Sunday 17th December, Advent 3

9.30am Gamlingay Eucharist (available to Benefice for those wishing to receive Communion)
4pm Everton Christmas Carol Service
6pm Gamlingay Christmas Carol Service

Wednesday 20th December

9.30am Midweek Eucharist at Gamlingay
7pm Hatley Carol Service (**NB Corrected time!**)

Sunday 24th December, Advent 4/Christmas Eve

9.30am Gamlingay service for Advent 4 – Eucharist
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

(NB Hatley St George - possible 8.30am service if required. Please contact Hilary if you would welcome this).

Wednesday 27th December - 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

Contact details below show who to contact in each parish:

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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.

