

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



## Weekly newsletter 22 December 2023



### *From Hilary:*

Thanks be for the two wonderful Carol Services this last Sunday. Well done indeed to the Benefice Choir (Chris, Rob and Andrew for their leadership and the current membership augmented by previous members) who sang at two much-appreciated services. Special mention, too, for the Gamlingay ringers led by Joh Boocock, for the chimed Christmas Carols - again very much appreciated by many who commented that this year felt particularly special. Despite starting with sneezes and a runny nose on Thursday evening, I was blessed to be able to manage all three services on Sunday without any of these symptoms, although my voice was diminishing by the end of service number three. Unfortunately, the following day things deteriorated considerably, and Wednesday's morning communion was cancelled and the Carol Service at Hatley St George in the evening has had to go ahead without me - always a shame after putting in the work to prepare. Special thanks to Chris for picking it up at short notice - I know the service will have been lovely. Thanks to those who arranged the refreshments afterwards which I have, of course, missed.

As Advent reaches its end on Sunday, we also have our Christmas Eve services, when church attenders are going to feel rather disorientated as the morning service is still Advent and then we have three Christmas Eve celebrations. Christingle services in both churches will collect funds for the Children's Society, and welcome Pop-Up Nativity contributions from children of the parishes, (and perhaps parents and grandparents!) Then the Benefice First Communion of Christmas (Midnight Mass) at Gamlingay begins the Christmas services proper.

At the time of writing there is no certainty of a service in Hatley on Christmas morning, - the only available time is 8.30am for a said service, which will take place if there is a congregation. Let me (Hilary) know - I would love to celebrate in Hatley as a part of the Benefice.

*As the fourth Advent wreath candle number is lit...*

People of God: prepare! God, above all, maker of all, is one with us in Christ. Maranatha!

**Come, Lord Jesus!**

God, the mighty God, bends down in love to earth. Maranatha!

**Come, Lord Jesus!**

God with us, God beside us, comes soon to the world he has made. Maranatha!

**Come, Lord Jesus!**

We are God's children, we seek the coming Christ. Maranatha!

**Come, Lord Jesus !**

# NEWS FROM GAMLINGAY

**Church Hall:** We are delighted to announce completion of the remedial work to the roof of the Church Hall, and to give hugely grateful acknowledgement to Brogan Group for making this work possible. Without their providing half of the cost, this essential work could not have taken place. Making the building water-tight again will ensure that the Church Hall continues to be a valuable community asset which the Church is only able to maintain and make available with this sort of help. Brownies, Guides and the Jelly Tots Toddler Group, as well as many other occasional and regular users including Simple Lunch, will benefit from this repair.

Huge thanks to Sandra for all her efforts in both finding sources of support and organising volunteers to carry out internal refurbishments. Decoration has only been possible thanks to the grant from Julie Green and the team at Volac for which we are hugely grateful. The Church Hall refurbishment started last year when Howdens very kindly donated the kitchen and Keith Warboys fitted it for us. The kitchen flooring is to be fitted in the near future for which thanks to Jamie at Flooring Works. Most of the painting in the hall is now complete – special thanks to Ann Davis and all our amazing volunteers for their hard work.

Without the help of kind and generous donations none of this would have been possible.

The refurbishment of the hall floor is the next project and, despite generous help from Stacey at SK Flooring, will probably require more than we have in budget. Watch out in the New Year for news on the search for additional funding.

**Memory Lane** this week (the last one of 2023) was hugely enjoyed - despite the decimations of winter illnesses - with carols and other Christmas songs from the Community Choir. Thanks to Kate who enabled most people to make a pomander, although one or two of the oranges got eaten rather than having cloves in them! The next meeting is 23rd January 2024.

---

## *From Jane Orchiston.....*

The final total raised from the Christmas Fair and The Ensemble of Friends Concert is £2,542.36.  
Well done to all involved.

**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** - 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. *Click on the poster, right, for more information.*

A candle lit  
**New Year  
celebration  
charity concert**  
SUNDAY  
**8th January**  
**3.00 pm**  
St Mary's church, Gamlingay

THE SOIRÉE ENSEMBLE  
Directed by Carla Robinson  
With great music for everyone to enjoy  
- including pieces by Vivaldi, Elgar,  
Karl Jenkins and Mozart

Presented by pancreatic cancer research fund + St Mary's Gamlingay

Adults £10.00, children £5.00 - including refreshments  
Tickets from St Mary's church

## Christmas Day Lunch in Gamlingay

Numbers have been increasing all week and plans are pretty much finalised for a delicious all-age Christmas lunchtime celebration, not just a traditional turkey dinner, but veggie option, choice of desserts, games and musical entertainment. Upwards of 50 guests will be gathering from 12 noon at the Ecohub. Anyone wanting alcoholic sustenance can bring their own, but everything else is provided. Vivienne and Hilary are seeing to potatoes and parsnips; the GBC team are covering everything else led by Adrian and Amanda, with Liz coordinating for them. Prayers are for this to be a special time for everyone to feel the love of God at work in a very practical way.



## NEWS FROM EVERTON

**Church south side Roof and Walls:** The contractors recommended by our architect have kindly found time to call and check out the problem and have identified and rectified the immediate issues of blocked gutters. They have taken out the bend in a pipe to the water butt which was causing backing up during heavy rain, so we trust the source of the issues observed at the last heavy rainfall has been dealt with.

### Christmas Services and dates

#### Sunday 24th December, Advent 4/Christmas Eve

- |         |   |
|---------|---|
| 9.30am  | Gamlingay service for Advent 4 – Eucharist and Nativity       |
| 3pm     | Everton Christingle service <b>(NB correction to Gazette)</b> |
| 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         |

**NB Hatley St. George:** Possible 8.30am service if required. Please contact Hilary if you would welcome this.

**Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> December - No midweek Eucharist.**

#### Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> 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 |

## Christmas Day Candle Prayer

People of God: shout and sing! Tell the good news of peace on earth.  
 Lord, bring us today into Christ's peace. All God's people say: **Amen!**  
 Angels dance and the bright star shines. All creation bows to the Lord of all.  
 Lord, bring us today into Christ's light. All God's people say: **Amen!**  
 One with us, yet born to save, he will show us the way to God.  
 Lord, bring us today into Christ's love. All God's people say: **Amen!**  
 People of God: shout and sing: **Alleluia! Alleluia! Amen**



Contact details below show who to contact in each parish:

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

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.

*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.*

