

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



Weekly newsletter 29 December 2023



From Hilary:

Christmas Eve on a Sunday produces quite a marathon of services, all special in their own way - a highlight being welcoming people who do not usually share worship with us. The lovely atmospheres of Christingles with candlelit children's faces and then the first communion of Christmas, welcoming the birthday celebration at midnight, all on the same day as ending Advent and thinking about Mary's 'yes' made for a special, very busy day.

We are very grateful to Woodview Farm Shop for donating all the oranges for the Christingle service and many thanks to those who found time on Saturday to gather in church and prepare them.

Thank you so much to those of you who helped to see me through in the midst of the worst chest infection-cum-bronchitis I've ever experienced. Thank you for the prayers which carried us, and well done indeed to everyone (especially those who were there for most of the services) for the worship we were able to offer - you know who you are, what a blessing!

Amidst much to be thankful for (for which I am indeed sincerely grateful) I regret most deeply missing out on Hatley - both the Carol Service taken so well by Chris as stand-in, and the Christmas Morning service which couldn't happen. I did check and there was no cover available for any of the Eucharistic services. I'm so sorry that I just couldn't do 8.30am at Hatley after a midnight service with a 9.30 service following.

For those who don't know, after all the services and contributing to the GBC Christmas meal at the Ecohub, Norman and I joined our family with a new grandson to be looked after and entertained. Norman and I are both still suffering but very much enjoying family time with no more travelling now we've arrived. We shall be back for the last services of December.

Christmas Day Lunch

Congratulations and thank you to Liz, Adrian and Amanda with all the rest of the GBC family team for what, by all accounts, has been a lovely celebration time.

Goodbye 2023

So, this is the last Newsletter of 2023, and I would like to record again my personal thanks to Ian and Brenda for all they do to help produce this means of communication.

As usual this has been a year full of events, some better than others, some more memorable than others. We saw the death of one monarch [8-9-22] and crowning of another [6-5-23]; many other deaths and births; a war begun in the Middle East and another dragging on in Ukraine. To pray **Dag Hammarskjöld's** (UN secretary General from 1953-61) simple prayer takes courage and faith, but is what we shall do if we dare, on New Year's Eve as we say:

For all that has been - THANKS

For all that will be - YES



Happy New Year to all our readers -
Thanks be to God who goes with us whatever 2024 holds.

NEWS FROM GAMLINGAY

The CCTV is now in place but needs a policy and signage completion. Illness has prevented this happening in time for Christmas opening of the church, but hopefully New Year will see us back open during the day.

The first Simple Lunch of 2024 will be on Tuesday 16th January, 12.30-2pm

The first Memory Lane of 2024 is the following week 2-4pm.

New Year Charity Concert – Save the date!

On Sunday, 7th January at 3pm we have a rather special event coming up 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.

A poster for a 'New Year celebration charity concert'. The text is arranged vertically. At the top right is a musical note graphic. The main text reads: 'A candle lit New Year celebration charity concert SUNDAY 7th January 3.00 pm St Mary's Church, Gamlingay'. Below this is 'THE SOIRÉE ENSEMBLE Directed by Carla Robinson'. A line of text says 'With great music for everyone to enjoy - including pieces by Corelli, Vivaldi, Bach, Piazzolla, Francois Dompierre... and much more'. At the bottom, there are logos for 'Tibbs Dementia Foundation' (with a tree icon) and 'St Mary's Gamlingay' (with a cross icon). A QR code is on the right. At the very bottom, it says 'Adults £10.00, children £5.00 - including refreshments Tickets from St Mary's church, Eco Hub and bit.ly/7-1-24'. There is a small vertical copyright notice on the left edge of the poster.

NEWS FROM EVERTON

Community soup lunches start on 9th January, 12-2pm

Services and Events December/January

Sunday 31st December (New Year's Eve)

10am Benefice Eucharist Service at Gamlingay

Wednesday 3rd January

9.30am Midweek communion at Gamlingay

Sunday 7th January celebrating Epiphany

9.30am Gamlingay All Age Eucharist

11.15am Everton Parish Eucharist

3pm New Year Charity Concert, Gamlingay

Wednesday 10th January

NB: No midweek communion

Sunday 14th January, Epiphany 2

9.30am Parish Eucharist at Gamlingay

11.15am Parish Eucharist at Everton

Wednesday 17th January

9.30am Midweek communion at Gamlingay

Sunday 21st January, Epiphany 3 – Week of prayer for Christian Unity

9.30am Parish Eucharist at Gamlingay

4pm Evensong at Everton

Wednesday 24th January

9.30am Midweek communion at Gamlingay

Sunday 28th January, Presentation of Christ (Candlemas)

9.30am Parish Eucharist at Gamlingay

11.15am Parish Eucharist at Everton

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.