

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



Weekly newsletter 15 November 2024



From Hilary:

Last Sunday: Well done to everyone for once more making Remembrance Sunday a worthy reminder of the sacrifices of previous generations in two World Wars, as well as giving us all an opportunity to reflect on the horrors of wars past and present in the light of the love of the God of Love whose son's names include 'Prince of Peace'. The two parishes saw Acts of Remembrance at war memorials followed by church services decorated with poppies. Hatley church was also open and dressed for the occasion. There was no ceremony there, Hatley being included in the Gamlingay civic ceremony at the memorial in St Mary's cemetery. Thank you to Penny for setting up Hatley St George church. (*See photos under Hatley News*).

This Sunday - two before Advent, continues the Advent count-down to Christmas. This Sunday is designated as Safeguarding Sunday which, previously, we have only acknowledged in passing. This time it falls, appropriately, on a third Sunday at which Gamlingay's morning service is focused intentionally on healing, and where we would have included abuse victims in our prayers as well as highlighting our safeguarding procedures. As it happens, this Sunday also comes at the end of a week when the Anglican Church is reeling from the publication of a damning report on yet another case of serious and sustained abuse which has not been appropriately dealt with by church authorities, especially missing opportunities during the lifetime of the abuser. This revelation has resulted (appropriately in my view) in the resignation of Justin Welby as Archbishop of Canterbury, and it leaves other church leaders under a cloud. Indeed, we seem to live in times when all the structures our parents, and maybe we, have trusted are being found wanting on many levels. Attempts to put things right fail to satisfy anyone, and the main victim of the whole business is trust and truth. I will reflect further on this on Sunday.

For Children and Families: We have been looking at our offerings for children and families since losing Sandra from our ministry team and have now agreed on a plan which we can deliver with our present resources. We will be producing material to be used at home and in church - some will go out on additional attachments with the Newsletter, and some will be available in church on Sundays - for use by young people with their parents. We welcome any contributions which could be included, please contact Hilary or Ann with anything you may have. We are grateful already to the Mothers Union and Wakefield Cathedral for ideas so far. We shall be working on seasonal themes. Sometimes material will be specific for a particular Sunday, sometimes more generally applicable to several weeks. Our general upcoming seasons are Advent, Christmas and Epiphany, of course. This Sunday starts with Remembrance and All Saints material from the last week or two.

We hope you like our new plan, if you know of anyone who would now like to receive the Newsletter, please put them in touch or inform one of the team.

Hilary, Ann and Amelie

Reminder - Advent Calendars

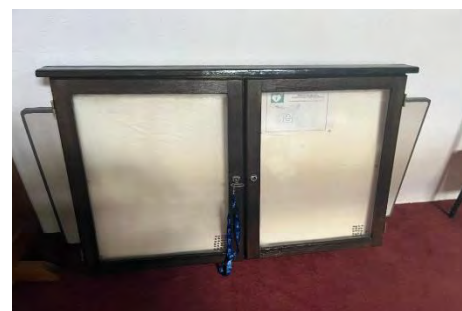
Real Advent Calendars - 4 left at £4.50 each at the time of writing. The Calendars have Fair Trade chocolate for each day, a Christmas story and activity booklet.

NEWS FROM EVERTON

Soup and Social was busy as usual, with 34 attendees and a nice buzz. There are only two more before Christmas, the last one on 10th December will be a Christmas meal for which booking is required.

Noticeboard - the noticeboard gifted by the Council has been beautifully refurbished and is in church awaiting return to its location near the pub, looking very smart! Huge thanks to Paul for his lovely craftsmanship, and Simon who is due to put the board up.

Christmas Coffee Morning advertisements are on display, please support this important fund raiser and enjoyable social event.



New Water Treatment Works - Anglian Water begins work this week on a £1.8M project to create a new wetland natural filtration system near the current treatment site off Tempsford Road. Work starts on 18th November. Access to the site will be from the A1 and Tempsford Road through fields, so should not bring traffic through the village. Unfortunately, it seems that no way has been found to safely provide public access around the site, due to lack of parking and the speed limit on the Tempsford road. The development should, when complete, be a significant addition to natural habitat locally and attract wildlife and therefore would be an interesting place to walk. More details should be available at: anglianwater.co.uk/envrionment although not found at first look by Hilary.

NEWS FROM THE HATLEYS

St Denis churchyard: Dates are being finalised for work through the Autumn. All help welcome, contact Hilary or Nicola.



Remembrance Sunday was marked at the little church at Hatley St George. Although no ceremony could take place there this year the building was beautifully and appropriately decorated.



EASYFUNDRAISING

St. Mary's, Gamlingay

St. Mary's in Gamlingay is already registered with Easy Fundraising which collects a donation for a charity named by participants every time they buy online from businesses signed up to the scheme. This is a free donation so it is really worth doing if you shop online. There are many organisations that are affiliated to this scheme - Amazon, John Lewis and Tesco to name just a few. If you have not already done so, please sign up and support the church in this easy way – go to www.easyfundraising.org.uk. Alec for supplying the instructions on how to do it.

NEWS FROM GAMLINGAY

SOS! - Your help is urgently needed TODAY!

Please, if you can, come to Gamlingay Church Hall from 7pm this evening (Friday) and help to stuff tickets for the Grand Draw into envelopes to be delivered to every house in the village. As always, help will also be needed with the actual delivery.

Memory Lane this month (25th November) will again welcome Annie and husband to lead our Christmas celebration with their Tea Dance music.

Church Closure and Theft: Replacement of the stolen CCTV cameras has been agreed so it is hoped that church will be open by the weekend. The Memorial Chapel altar was beautifully dressed for Remembrance, sadly not available to view through the day or on Monday because of having to keep the church locked when unattended. I doubt our thieving intruder would consider such consequences something to be ashamed of, but shame on him nevertheless.

Christmas Fair plans are well underway - **see page 4 for what help is needed.** Please act on this if you can and also help spread publicity for the event - Jane Orchiston can provide copies of material to display. Letters accompanying raffle tickets intended for the whole village will be available at the weekend, do help to deliver them if you can. Help is also welcome at the 'Stuffing Party' at the church hall from 7pm this Friday when letters will be put into envelopes with raffle tickets. Refreshments will be available to share, contributions welcome!

A Baptism is being arranged for next Sunday

Wedding Vows Renewal also takes place next Sunday at 2pm for Julie and Simon Ellis, with rehearsal this Sunday after the morning church service.

NB: Following another stone fall at the tower base the area has been taped off for safety. The area was inspected recently, and the architect has been advised. We await the QI report for what remedial action may be needed. Thank you to Ann for acting quickly to secure the area.



Gamlingay Fundraising News

Many thanks to Ian Parker, Quizmaster, for once again giving us such an enjoyable evening last Friday. The event was a great success and raised £439 for church funds. Thanks also to all those who so willingly helped with setting up, washing up and clearing away.



Christmas is coming!



Just 4 weeks now until our Big Christmas Fair and Grand Draw
Saturday 7th December, 12 noon – 4.30pm
St. Mary's Church, Gamlingay.

CAN YOU HELP?

- **Grand Draw:** We need to start collecting prizes for this – all donations gratefully accepted.
- **Christmas Hamper:** Donations are requested for the hamper, which forms one of the main prizes.
- **Filled Jar Tombola:** Please start collecting and filling your jars now!

*Donations for any of the above can be brought to church
or left in the porch at 61 Fairfield.*

- **Soft toys** (clean and in good condition) are needed for a Soft Toy Tombola.
Donations please to Anne Clarke in person or to 43 Blythe Way.
- **Bric-a-Brac:** We don't need much but if you have any good quality items that you think would sell,
Please bring them to church for Ann Davis who will be looking after the stall.
- **Cakes:** As always, we will need lots of cakes!
Please bring to church on the Friday afternoon or Saturday morning.
- **Man/woman power:**
If you are able to help with the setting up and clearing away (help which is desperately needed)
Please let Jane Orchiston know, in person or by phoning her on 07535005908

THANK YOU

We can't do it without you!

Hilary Young, Parish Priest	hilaryafyoung@gmail.com	650587
Chris Miller, LLM/Reader	cfm55@btinternet.com	650779
Ann Davis, Churchwarden and Gamlingay/Hatley PCC Secretary	anngamlingay@aol.com	07970 076972
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
Jane Butcher, Everton contact	Janebutcher59@googlemail.com	

Please let Brenda Elcome have any articles or pictures for the newsletter by Wednesday afternoon to Brenda.elcome@ymail.com

Services in the Benefice

Midweek said Eucharist services take place at St Mary's in Gamlingay every Wednesday at 9.30am unless otherwise advertised.

Services for November

Sunday 17th November: 2 Before Advent

9.30am Parish Eucharist at St. Mary's, Gamlingay with a focus on healing and Baptism of Baby Wilkinson Smith

4pm Evensong at Everton

Sunday 24th November: Next Before Advent/Christ the King

9.30am Parish Eucharist at St. Mary's, Gamlingay

11.15am Parish Eucharist at St. Mary's, Everton

2pm Renewal of Wedding vows at Gamlingay, Julie and Simon Ellis

Services for December

Sunday 1st December Advent 1

9.30am Parish Eucharist at St Mary's Gamlingay

11.15am Parish Eucharist at St Mary's Everton

4pm Benefice Advent Carol Service at Gamlingay

Sunday 8th December Advent 2

9.30am Parish Eucharist at St. Mary's, Gamlingay

11.15am Parish Eucharist at St. Mary's, Everton

Sunday 15th December Advent 3

9.30am Parish Eucharist at St. Mary's, Gamlingay with a focus on healing

11.15am Parish Eucharist at St. Mary's, Everton

6pm Gamlingay Traditional Carol Service with GBC at St Mary's

Wednesday 18th December

7pm Carol Service at Hatley St George

Sunday 22nd December Advent 4

9.30am Benefice Eucharist at St. Mary's, Gamlingay

11.15am Pop-Up nativity service at Hatley St George

4pm Benefice Carol Service at St. Mary's, Everton

Tuesday 24th December Christmas Eve

3.30pm Christingle Service at St. Mary's, Everton

4.30pm Christingle Service at St. Mary's, Gamlingay

preceded by Nativity Walk from The Jannah (meet at 4pm)

11.30pm First Communion of Christmas (Midnight Mass) Gamlingay St Mary

Wednesday 25th December Christmas Day

8.30am Christmas Day said Eucharist TBC

10am Christmas Day Family Eucharist Gamlingay St Mary

10am Christmas Day lessons and carols Everton St Mary

Sunday 29th December Christmas 1

10am Benefice Eucharist at Gamlingay

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.