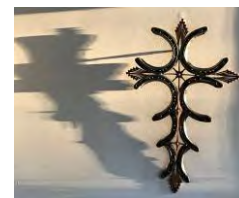


# ST MARY'S GAMLINGAY, HATLEY ST GEORGE & ST MARY'S EVERTON



## Weekly newsletter 29 November 2024



*From Hilary:*

**Advent begins this Sunday** as we count down to Christmas. Last Sunday we prayed to be 'stirred up' and Christmas cakes and puddings were supposed to be prepared. I don't know how many people follow that tradition now, but it reminds us that preparations are due.

I have had a printer disaster over the last couple of weeks, so I beg indulgence with timings as I have to fit in finding a suitable replacement. Please let me know if you can help recycle a Xerox C405- it would probably be useable with a service and comes with some ink cartridges, including two of the colour ones, unopened and brand new.

We begin lighting the Advent wreath candles this week, with the first candle and this prayer:



### ***Advent Wreath Prayer Week 1***

*People of God: awake! The day is coming soon when you shall see God face to face.*

*Remember the ways and the works of God.*

*God calls you out of darkness to walk in the light of his coming.*

*You are God's children.*

***Lord, make us one as we walk with Christ today and forever. Amen***

### **Advent Study**

The Jesse tree pictures and readings sequence is available for personal study, a reading for each day with a symbol to use as you wish - putting them on a tree branch is one tradition. [Click here to download a copy.](#)

There is a general invitation to display Advent Angels in windows through Advent this year. The first angels, connecting with the Patriarchs theme, are from Jacob's dream of a ladder from earth to heaven with angels 'ascending and descending'.

I am inviting anyone who would like to join Advent discussions on **Monday evenings 7.30-9pm** at the Rectory in Gamlingay, or **Wednesdays after the morning service, 10.30 until noon**, again at the Rectory unless someone would like to offer another venue?

Discussions will look at the weekly themes. This first week, Patriarchs and Hope, with the story of Jacob's dream in Genesis 28.10-19. If you would like some reflections to use on this topic, please let me know by Sunday and I will send out to a circulation list either by email or in hard copy.

## For Children and Families

Attached is an activity paper, there will be card to make your own Advent wreath in church, and a Real Advent Calendar for church children.

## VAT relief on repairs to listed places of worship

Peter Mann has been very persistent with Pippa Heylings and has (at third prompt) achieved a response indicating that she has asked a question of the relevant minister. There is a decision to be made by a department where the spending allowance has been cut - pray and pester that the cut doesn't fall on this scheme, without which church repairs cost a fifth more directly, and suffer all sorts of additions indirectly.

**Please help to make the case for the future of the scheme** by writing about it to your MP. [Click here for a possible letter drafted by NCT \(it's a Word 'doc' file\)](#). The advice is to personalise it as far as possible and definitely mention your local church. Letters should be addressed to (MP's name) House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA. For Gamlingay the MP is Pippa Heylings, for Everton Richard Fuller

### Rod Cooper

It is now just over three years ago that Jan and Rod Cooper left Gamlingay to go and live near their daughter and her family in Lichfield. They had been in Gamlingay for over 40 years, but Rod's health was deteriorating and, as many of you will know, he sadly died on 19 November. Jan has asked me to thank all of you who have been praying for them and continuing to support them with your love. It has meant a great deal to both of them.

*Chris Miller*

## NEWS FROM THE HATLEYS

**St Denis churchyard** working party was so successful that later dates were not needed. Well done and thank you to everyone, especially Nicola for coordinating everything.

## NEWS FROM EVERTON

**Soup and Social** took place on Tuesday 26th, despite the sudden loss of June Simpson whose idea and initiative the Social, now an established event, was. Andy specifically asked for it to go ahead, as I'm confident June would have insisted.

**June's funeral** is to be this coming Wednesday, 4th December at 12 noon, followed by soup-and-social style refreshments at the Village Hall. Family only will attend the cremation following.

**Christmas Coffee Morning** is this weekend on Saturday 30th 10am - 12 noon. Do come along, contributions welcome. Your support is SO much valued by the small team who organise this and who very much need all the help they can get.

**PCC** met on Wednesday last week, and again this week on Tuesday with architect Stephanie Norris and Holly Robinson and Samuel Pedlar from the Diocese to discuss possible buildings work. A Village Heritage Event is being planned for the evening of Friday 31st January.

**Barnabas Oley Trustees** met on Tuesday afternoon this last week and have awarded a grant this year, for which the PCC is hugely grateful.

# ***NEWS FROM GAMLINGAY***

**Memory Lane** met on Tuesday, welcoming Annie and husband to lead a Christmas themed Tea Dance which was enjoyed by everyone.

The last meeting of the year will be on the 3rd Tuesday, 17th December, instead of the 4th Tuesday in December, that being Christmas Eve.

**The next Simple Lunch is on 3rd December.** This will be the last one of the year, with Memory Lane being on the 3rd Tuesday. There will instead be substantial refreshments 2 - 4pm at the EcoHub.

**Christmas Fair** letters accompanying raffle tickets have been distributed. Huge thanks to everyone involved with that, and also to the people who have already returned raffle tickets and donations.

**Welcome to Eva Jane Wilkinson-Smith** baptised last Sunday in the morning service.

**Congratulations** to Julie and Simon Ellis celebrating 35 years of marriage this week, after renewing marriage vows last Sunday afternoon in a lovely joyful service.

**The Climate Action Group** at which the church is represented met on Wednesday evening this week, more details next time.

## **JUST ONE WEEK TO GO....**



**Christmas Fair and Grand Draw**  
Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December, 12 noon – 4.30pm  
St. Mary's Church, Gamlingay.



### **We are still needing donations of:**

- **Raffle Prizes** for the Grand Draw
- **Items for the Christmas Hamper** which forms one of the main prizes.
- **Filled Jars and Bottles** for the Tombola.
- **Soft Toys** (clean and in good condition) for the Soft Toy Tombola
- **Bric-a-Brac** – good quality items only please.
- **Cakes** for the refreshments.

### **Man/Womanpower....**

Would you, or someone you know, be able and willing to help set up on the Friday afternoon from 4pm? If so, please contact Jane Orchiston – 07535005908 or just turn up, you will be welcomed with open arms!

Similarly, help will be needed to dismantle and clear everything away at 4.30pm on Saturday

***THANK YOU!***

## 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 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

*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.*

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**Please let Brenda Elcome have any articles or pictures for the newsletter by Wednesday afternoon 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.