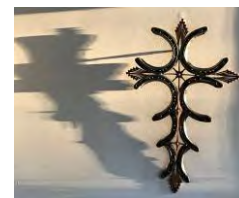


ST MARY'S GAMLINGAY, HATLEY ST GEORGE & ST MARY'S EVERTON



Weekly newsletter 13 December 2024



From Hilary:

Recycling opportunity

There may still be time, as you read this, to provide items for recycling as no arrangement for collection was yet in place by date of going to press. Thank you to those who have already provided items.

Advent continues this Sunday, Advent 3 with themes of [John the Baptist and Joy](#) – click to download.

John's task is similar to all the Old Testament prophets, but his lifetime overlaps and his ministry is entwined with that of Jesus himself. His task of prophecy is both the same and different, he personally recognises and greets the promised Saviour.

The angel for this week is the one who announces to Zechariah that he is to be a father when his wife Elizabeth is barren and past child-bearing age. Unlike Mary, whom we celebrate and remember next week, this announcement is met with disbelief, despite Zechariah being a priest. The result is his being struck dumb until John is born and named.



Advent Wreath Prayer *Week 3* at the lighting of the third candle

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.

A prayer for use at evening time, especially appropriate for this season?

Visit this place, O Lord, we pray, and drive far from it the snares of the enemy; may your holy angels dwell with us and guard us in peace, and may your blessing be always upon us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Traditional Carol Service

This Sunday we have a slightly different version of our regular Carol Service at St Mary's in Gamlingay. Rather than having two services on the same Sunday as Everton, this service is a week earlier than usual and shared with GBC, with the Carol Service at Everton the following week being the one at which the church choir will sing.

Although the choir is not 'on duty' this Sunday, there is an informal singing group singing two carols as well as joining with all the usual favourites. Rehearsals are on Sunday morning after the service (at 11am) and again just before the service in the afternoon.

Advent Study

Monday 16th 7.30-9pm at the Rectory in Gamlingay.

Wednesday 18th after the morning service at the Rectory

This last week's study time on Monday was given over to a rehearsal to which no one came. However, the time wasn't wasted for those who did attend, as the music was shared and the sound system inspected.

This coming week John the Baptist's story is our focus, the Jesse tree pictures and readings reminding us of the story of John's birth which Luke gives us. The lives of John and Jesus are linked from before birth as their mothers are cousins, and meet during their pregnancies, where Mary's song, the Magnificat, comes from.

For Children and Families

Apologies that this last week's sheet didn't go out at all for Gamlingay circulation and in Everton only with the Sunday material. There will, hopefully, be one this week in more timely fashion.

Deanery Synod met on Wednesday this week for a special session to agree actions to meet the combined Deanery share. Individual churches and Benefices have struggled this year, but it is hoped collectively to meet the share request and thereby benefit from a rebate incentive for full payment, as in previous years.

NEWS FROM GAMLINGAY

The Christmas Fair on Saturday was a really good affair, despite the bad weather. Well done and thank you to the team of organisers and helpers led by Jane O. The total (see below) has made an important difference to our ability to make ends meet again this year. Special thanks to Miss Alice and her dancers, bringing some lovely dance moves and filling the church with an appreciative audience.



From Jane Orchiston

The Christmas Fair and Grand Draw final total has yet to be determined due to online payments. However, it will be around £2,000. Many thanks to all who helped and contributed in any way.

The large food hamper prize has been donated by the winner to the Food Project.

NB: Please note that the **New Year Concert** will now be on 12th January due to the availability of musicians.

NEWS FROM EVERTON

RIP June Simpson - Thank you to everyone who made the service for June last week as fitting as it was. The PCC is most grateful for the donations from the service - total not yet available at the time of going to press. June's successful founding of 'Soup and Social' was celebrated again this week at the now annual **Soup and Social Christmas Meal** which was delicious, catered for by the pub, and graced by a visit from Santa, as well as (a highlight for many) some of Everton Heath Primary School children whose singing was much praised.



A poem from June's son used at her funeral:

It Takes A Village

Long country walks, neighbours greet,
Give that horse its favourite treat.
Paint dips, brush strokes, art unfolds,
Mixing colours, heart pure gold.
Decorations fill the hall,
Hot soup, warm smile, care for all.
It takes a village.

Door's wide open, welcome here,
Friends of children, laughter, cheer.
Family when they reach our shores,
Room for five, but we'll take more.
At the table; "Pass the wine."
Tell your tales, I'll tell you mine.
It takes a village.

Looking forward, lead the youth,
Guide with wisdom, share the truth.
Kids and grandkids, pride of place,
FaceTime, phone calls, face-to-face.
The future's bright, where care is true,
Our future's bright, because of you.
It takes a village.

You were a village.

Early Years Nativity Play took place in church this last week with two presentations on consecutive days. It is a delight to welcome the children in church, and the PCC is most grateful for the contribution to heating costs offered by parents. A big Thank You to Jane B and Richard A for decorating the tree in time for the event.



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 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
11.15a 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

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.

