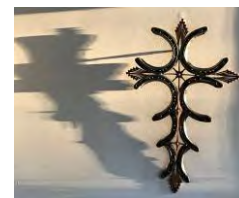


ST MARY'S GAMLINGAY, HATLEY  
ST GEORGE & ST MARY'S EVERTON



Weekly newsletter 20 December 2024



**HAPPY CHRISTMAS!**  
to all our readers



*From Hilary:*

**This Sunday, the fourth and last in Advent**, has themes of Mary and Love. We have the same angel as last week - Gabriel - who announces both the birth of John the Baptist and Jesus. Mary's obedience to God's will enables something immense - she doesn't seem to have had much choice in one sense, but she shows us that importance of saying 'yes' to God's will.

For Christmas, the angels who heralded Christ's birth to the shepherds are our final reflection on Angels at Advent. We are close to Christmas now, and the end of 2024.

**NB: There won't be another Newsletter until the New Year 2025**, so note well what is planned now for Christmas, the Sunday after and into the following week of the New Year. And be aware that illness and other unpredictable elements can change the best laid plans!

**A HUGE THANK YOU to Brenda** for continuing to lay out and edit this publication, and to bear with repeatedly stretched deadlines.

Thank you for all your greetings cards and praying for all our readers to have a Happy Christmas and blessings for the New Year 2025



Donkey Charlie, now at Wimpole Hall, had a Christmas photo shoot - here he is to wish you all the best for the season, with his friend Daisy.



### **Advent Candle Prayer Week 4**

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!**

### **Christmas Day Prayer at the Advent Wreath**

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/shout*: **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/shout*: **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/shout*: **Amen!**

People of God: shout and sing: **Alleluia! Alleluia! Amen.**

### **The prayer at evening once more.....**

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*

### **Advent Study**

This coming week is when we think of Mary and the Holy Family. Being so close to Christmas, there probably won't be any interest in meeting, [but the Jesse tree pictures of the Christmas events](#), reminding us of the stories we have been thinking about through Advent, could be something to think about if time can be made.

**Monday 22nd 7.00-8.30** at the Rectory in Gamlingay - let Hilary know if you can be there.

### **For Children and Families**

[This week's material covers](#) this last Sunday of Advent, Christmas and Epiphany, and will be distributed later, enjoy!

### **Celebration Party for Norman Young - Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> February**

At Gamlingay Ecohub 2.30-4.30pm – fundraising for Benefice Churches. A general invitation is extended to the community

## ***NEWS FROM HATLEY***

Wednesday's carol service was the main Christmas service for Hatley, but there is also the pop-up nativity service on Sunday which will be followed by an opportunity to receive communion for those who wish to do so, and a Christmas Morning 8.30 said communion, which will go ahead if there is even one person there. Pop-up nativity means the congregation is the cast of the nativity play, dressed up or not, identifying with the usual characters of the story, told again for children by a narrator. If there is the right cast present a nativity tableau may form for singing a carol.

# ***NEWS FROM GAMLINGAY***

**Gamlingay School Carol Services** took place at GBC on Tuesday last week, two 'vertical' halves of the school made their presentations of the same items but by different authors. Well done to Rev Adrian and helpers for providing support to the school to produce and live-stream this service and to Beth and the rest of the school staff who masterminded what went into the presentations. Rev Hilary spoke at the services about Christmas angels, and greatly enjoyed the variety of thought and work the children showed in their presentations. The whole event was a delight, but particular highlights were stained glass windows and poems on the real meaning of Christmas, and a Makaton signed version of 'We wish you a Merry Christmas'.

**The last Memory Lane of 2024** took place with carols provided by the Community Choir. Both the choir and their appreciative audience were somewhat reduced by illness and the general busyness of this time of year, but a good time was had by all. Many thanks to Kate for all her work this year in enabling these sessions alongside St Mary's volunteers. The next Memory Lane will be on the 4th Tuesday of January i.e. the 28th.



## **Simple Lunches**

Look out for information in the New Year as to when Simple Lunches will take place.

**Shared Traditional Carol Service** with GBC was widely praised. Huge thanks to Adrian and Mike from GBC for facilitating music and visuals - the big screen was a particular blessing with Hilary's ongoing printer problems preventing production of a service sheet for everyone. Thanks also to everyone who took part in reading and singing. This is certainly something we will look to repeat.



## ***Forthcoming Gamlingay Events***



**Benefice Carol Service:** Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December - 4pm at Everton

**Christingle Making:** Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> December – 3pm in Gamlingay Church

**Christingle Service:** Christmas Eve, 24th December – 4.30pm St Mary's, Gamlingay

**New Year Concert 3pm, now on 12th January, St Mary's, Gamlingay**, proceeds to MND and St Mary's, Gamlingay. Tickets £10.00 per adult, £5.00 per child, refreshments included. Wonderful music to enliven the dullest of January afternoons in the beautiful atmosphere and acoustics of St Mary's.

**The Task Group for Fundraising wishes you all a Happy Christmas and a Happy New Year!**





## GUILD OF ST MARY

### Christmas Party



Apologies to members for the lack of the promised photo but for some reason it didn't work. It was, however, an evening of festive fun, food and friendship which was greatly enjoyed by all. Mulled wine, silly Christmas cracker jokes, secret Santa gifts, charades and 'The Old Family Coach' all added to the merriment and helped us get into the Christmas spirit.

Our next open meeting, with a speaker, will be on 20th January.  
Watch out for details in the New Year.

## ***NEWS FROM EVERTON***

Christmas cards produced by children from the school for a competition the PCC asked for, have been gathered and reviewed. Well done to all the children for their efforts. Also, a huge 'thank you' to teachers for enabling the work in class. Health and printer problems have prevented timely production of the card run as planned - time will tell if anything appears before Christmas.

### Services in the Benefice

**Midweek Eucharists:** A said service of Holy Communion will normally be celebrated on Wednesdays at 9.30am at St. Mary's, Gamlingay through January and February, but please check newsletters, there may well not be one on January 15<sup>th</sup>. **NB: New Year's Day service will be at 10am.**

### Services for December

#### Sunday 22nd December Advent 4

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|---------|---|
| 9.30am  | Benefice Eucharist at St. Mary's, Gamlingay   |
| 11.15am | Pop-Up nativity service at Hatley St George – come as a character for the nativity, or not!<br>Shortened Communion available afterwards |
| 4pm     | Benefice Carol Service at St. Mary's, Everton   |



**Christingle 2023**

#### Tuesday 24th December Christmas Eve

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|---------|---|
| 3.30pm  | Christingle Service at St. Mary's, Everton  |
| 4.30pm  | Christingle Service at St. Mary's, Gamlingay<br>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

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|---------------|---|
| <b>8.30am</b> | Christmas Day said Eucharist TBC - still no news on whether there will be takers for this service. All being well Hilary will be at Hatley St George to offer an early Christmas Eucharist for anyone who needs a service at this time to make their Christmas communion. |
| <b>10am</b>   | Christmas Day Family Eucharist at Gamlingay St Mary   |
| <b>10am</b>   | Christmas Day lessons and carols Everton St Mary  |

#### Sunday 29th December Christmas 1

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|------|---------------------------------|
| 10am | Benefice Eucharist at Gamlingay |
|------|---------------------------------|

#### Wednesday 1st January

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|------|--|
| 10am | New Year's Day Eucharist at Gamlingay St Mary followed by refreshments |
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## Services and church events for January and February 2025

*(provisional particularly for February - please check weekly Newsletters)*

### Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> January: Epiphany Celebrations

9.30am All-age Eucharist at St. Mary's, Gamlingay  
11.15am Parish Eucharist at St. Mary's, Everton

### Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> January: 1 after Epiphany

9.30am Parish Eucharist at St. Mary's, Gamlingay  
11.15am Parish Eucharist at St. Mary's, Everton  
3pm Classical Charity Concert at St Mary's Gamlingay

### Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> January: 2 after Epiphany

9.30am Parish Eucharist at St. Mary's, Gamlingay with a focus on healing  
4.00pm Evensong at St. Mary's, Everton

### Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> January: 3 after Epiphany

9.30am Parish Eucharist at St. Mary's, Gamlingay  
11.15am Parish Eucharist at St. Mary's, Everton

### Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> February Candlemas/Presentation of Christ

9.30am All-age Eucharist at St. Mary's, Gamlingay  
11.15am Parish Eucharist at St. Mary's, Everton

### Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> February: 4 Before Lent

9.30am Parish Eucharist at St. Mary's, Gamlingay  
11.15am Parish Eucharist at St. Mary's, Everton

### Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> February: 3 Before Lent (Septuagesima)

9.30am Eucharist at St. Mary's, Gamlingay with a focus on healing  
4.00pm Evensong at St. Mary's, Everton

### Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> February: 2 Before Lent (Sexagesimal)

9.30am Parish Eucharist at St. Mary's, Gamlingay  
4.00pm Evensong at St. Mary's, Everton

*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.