

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



Weekly newsletter 3 January 2025



*“May the New Year bless you with unwavering faith that guides your steps, illuminates your path and fills your heart with hope and strength throughout the year ahead.”*

***From Hilary,***

The liturgical Christmas season began on 25th December and has continued through last Sunday, despite the secular Christmas pretty much ending on Boxing Day! We move from Christmas to Epiphany this Sunday, continuing to celebrate not only the birth but the continuing life of Jesus.

Thank you and well done to the decorators of the churches, and to all who supported the celebrations leading up to and including Christmas Day itself.

Special thanks, too, to Woodview Farm Shop and G&M Growers for donating the Christingle oranges, and to the people who made them up into Christingles. See below for Childrens Society donations resulting from the services on Christmas Eve.

And now - Praying all our readers blessings for the New Year 2025, which came in very blustery! Stamina failed in the Young household this year, and the New Year began without conscious attention. However, Wednesday 1st January saw the midweek communion in Gamlingay celebrating the feast of the Naming and Circumcision of Christ as a New Year service.

This Sunday, celebrating the Epiphany, begins a season leading to Candlemas during which the showing of Christ to the world is remembered. The first story is of the visit by the Magi.

**For Children and Families**

The material this time is about Epiphany ([click here to download the family activity sheet](#)) – the visit of the Magi to Jesus. Although it forms part of the Nativity plays of Christmas, the story in the Bible tells us that the visit was much later, and not to the stable where Jesus was born.

## ***NEWS FROM EVERTON***

**Christingle:** This year's Christingle service raised £50.80 for the Children's Society. Thank you to Beverley for making up the Christingles and to Dick for counting the money.

The first **Soup and Social** of 2025 is this coming week on 5th January.

The 31st January sees an event in church for which invitations will be going out later than intended but making use of the card which the children produced.

## ***NEWS FROM GAMLINGAY***

**Christingle:** This year's Christingle service saw a full church for an atmospheric service supported by the Guides. Thank you to Amy and Ann for leading the Nativity Walk and to the Church Street supporting cast. Also, to Jane O for organising the Christingle-making team and making sure church was set up and taken down. Thank you to all who contributed to the generous collection of £314.43 for the Children's Society.

**The New Year Concert** has hit a setback with the availability of the original line-up of musicians but is still planned to go ahead on the afternoon of Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> January - though watch this space.

**Memory Lane** this month is on the 4th Tuesday of January i.e. the 28th. Watch this space for information on what we shall be doing.

**Simple Lunch** dates are not finally decided as these would coincide with the Everton Soup and Social if they began on the first Tuesday. There will be one on Tuesday 14th January, when future dates will be discussed with clientele.

### **Rest in Peace**

Since the last Newsletter has come the tragic news of Rebecca Stanton's death just before Christmas and then Norma Hood's on the morning of the Sunday after. Funeral arrangements will be announced in due course, meanwhile our thoughts and prayers are especially with the bereaved families.

## ***NEWS FROM HATLEY ST GEORGE***

One family attended the nativity service and had fun reprising the nativity story.

No one was in church for Christmas morning, apart from Hilary who enjoyed a time of private worship in the beautifully decorated church.....



## Services in the Benefice for January and February 2025

### NB - correction to the last Sunday of February.

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

#### 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 New Year 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  
4pm 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

#### Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> February –

2.30 – 4.30 pm Celebration Party for Norman Young -fundraising for Benefice churches at Gamlingay Ecohub - general invitation extended to community

#### 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  
4pm 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  
11.15am Parish Eucharist 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@gmail.com](mailto:Brenda.elcome@gmail.com)**