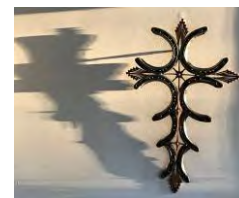


ST MARY'S GAMLINGAY, HATLEY ST GEORGE & ST MARY'S EVERTON



Weekly Newsletter 24 January 2025



From Hilary:

Epiphany progresses with more of Jesus' early ministry, this Sunday's Gospel recounting his reading in the synagogue of his hometown and telling his hearers that the prophecy he reads is being fulfilled in front of them.

The full revision of Church Electoral Rolls across the country takes place this year, which means a new roll is started from scratch - **everyone has to re-apply**. (See page 4 of this newsletter)

To meet legal requirements, announcements have to be made in churches and by other means for the two weeks before the revision takes place. Last week was the second week of the announcement for Gamlingay. Timing is determined by the date of the APCM. [A PDF of the application form can be downloaded here](#).

Everton's APCM has been agreed for Sunday April 6th - the **Everton Electoral Roll revision starts this week**.

Listed Places of Worship Grants Scheme

Newsletter readers may remember being encouraged to put pressure on political representatives concerning the Listed Places of Worship Grants Scheme, which repays VAT on repair work on listed buildings in the form of a grant. Holly Robinson from the Church Buildings writes:

It has just been announced in the House of Commons Westminster Hall debate that the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme will continue for one year from March 2025 with a cap of £25k per place of worship. Furthermore, the total amount available will be capped at £23m (last year £29m was spent). <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/23-million-government-package-to-support-restoration-of-thousands-of-listed-places-of-worship>

This should not affect claims made during the current financial year, but we recommend you contact the LPWGS directly if you have any questions. <https://listed-places-of-worship-grant.dcms.gov.uk/>

This will negatively affect larger projects, and the future beyond 2026 is unknown. If you have any concerns regarding a project currently in progress, please contact me.

Holly goes on to comment:

Whilst this is disappointing news, it does at least give some certainty to projects taking place this year. I also want to thank all those who wrote to the DCMS and/or their MP. The DCMS received more than three hundred letters on the topic, and some three thousand letters were sent to MPs. One good thing is that this campaign has raised the profile of the future of our historic religious buildings. There is now a great opportunity to build positive relationships with local MPs, so they appreciate the contribution of places of worship to people, places and national heritage, so the case can be made for longer term funding as part of the next Spending Review. So please, thank your MP for their support, invite them to visit your church and share any good news stories over the coming year.

For Children and Families

This week's material continues Epiphany, with some material for last week's story of 'water into wine' and a reminder of Jesus starting his ministry in his hometown. Next week Epiphany ends with Candlemas.

Norman's local goth birthday party

There is an open invitation to those living locally to come to the Ecohub between 2.30 and 4.30pm on Saturday 8th February for an afternoon tea party with some musical entertainment and refreshments suitable for the occasion. The event is being part-catered for by Hilary, with help from the church family. If you are able to offer anything in the way of food, please contact Brenda Elcome who is helping coordinate the 'bring and share' element of the occasion. Also, Hilary would love to hear from anyone who would like to play or sing.

Decorations will include a Sheffield United (football team) theme - red and white stripes.

Norman does not want birthday presents, but it will be possible to donate to the churches of the Benefice either before or at the event - details as to how this may be done will be circulated.



If you are able to offer any donations of food (savoury or sweet) for Norman's birthday tea party, please let me know as soon as possible.

THANK YOU!

Brenda Elcome brenda.elcome@ymail.com

NEWS FROM GAMLINGAY

Church Footpaths

The footpaths around the church are being renewed by the Parish Council (as a closed churchyard the PC is responsible for the upkeep) with the encouragement and with the support of the PCC. The work is taking place over the next two weeks.

Memory Lane is next week, 28th January when we will be starting **Memory Books** and planning for the rest of the year.

Simple Lunches will be on 2nd Tuesdays for the time being. The next one on 11th February coincides with a funeral but will still go ahead.

Rest in Peace

Rebecca Stanton's funeral will take place on Thursday 30th January, 11am at St Mary's, Gamlingay.

Ray Sewell's funeral will take place on Tuesday 4th February, 1.45pm at Bedford Crematorium.

Gwendoline (Gwen) Maureen Janes' funeral will take place on 11th February, 12 noon at St Mary's, Gamlingay

QUIZ NIGHT

Friday 21st March, 7.30pm in Gamlingay Church Hall

It's time to get those brains working again! Our ever popular and highly respected Quiz Master, Ian Parker, has kindly agreed to challenge us once more on 21st March. Those who have attended previously will know that these evenings tend to be oversubscribed and, owing to the limited capacity of the hall, numbers have to be controlled. To be sure of getting a table for your team we are offering readers of the newsletter priority booking. Just speak to Jane or another member of the Fundraising Task Group as soon as possible and we will reserve you a place or a table.

NEWS FROM EVERTON

Soup and Social: Hilary was unable to attend on this occasion due to pressing pastoral issues.

The History Event on 31st January is in its final planning phases. The PCC, supported by the Diocese and wider community, is inviting attendance at the Village Hall on the Friday evening and putting on an exhibition in church which will be open over the weekend. There will be music in the afternoon on both Saturday and Sunday, during which time the exhibition will be staffed from 2pm-4pm.

Thank You to Everton PC for help in distributing invitations via the PC Newsletter.

Well done to the winners of the Christmas Card competition. Two winners - the original card for Christmas, and the one we are using for the card invitation

Benefice Services and Church Events for January and February

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

Sunday 26th January: 3 after Epiphany

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

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

Thursday 30th January

11am Funeral of Rebecca Stanton at St. Mary's Gamlingay.

Friday 31st January –

7pm-9pm History Event at Everton Village Hall

Saturday 1st February

2 – 4pm Everton Church open, Exhibition staffed, with music

Sunday 2nd February Candlemas/Presentation of Christ

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

11.15am Parish Eucharist at St. Mary's, Everton plus Open Afternoon with music

Saturday 8th February – Celebration Party for Norman Young (fundraising for Benefice churches)

2.30–4.30 pm - At Gamlingay Ecohub - General invitation extended to community

Sunday 9th February: 4 Before Lent

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

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

Tuesday 11th February

12noon Funeral of Gwendoline Janes at St. Mary's, Gamlingay

Sunday 16th 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 23rd 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.

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

Important Notice

New Electoral Roll applications for Gamlingay and Hatley must be completed before 16th February by all who wish to be on the new Roll

In every parish there must be a church Electoral Roll on which the names of lay (i.e. not clergy) persons are entered. In accordance with the Church Representation Rules, 2025 is a year in which an entirely new Electoral Roll must be prepared in advance of the Annual Church meeting in **every parish** in the Church of England.

Under the rules notice must be given in every church in the parish not less than two months before the Annual Meeting.

Whether or not a person has their name entered on the existing Electoral Roll, anyone wishing to be enrolled on the new Roll must complete a new application.

Under Church Representation Rules no one may be elected as a lay representative to a PCC or Deanery Synod, unless his or her name is on the Electoral Roll.

Under the Church Representation Rules, a lay person is entitled to have his or her name entered on the Roll, if the person – (a) is baptised, (b) is aged 16 or over, and (c) has made one of the following three declarations and duly applied for enrolment.

- The first declaration is that the person is a member of the Church of England or of a Church in communion with it and is resident in the parish.
- The second declaration is that the person is a member of the Church of England or of a Church in communion with it, is not resident in the parish, but has habitually attended public worship in the parish during the preceding six months.
- The third declaration is that the person is a member of good standing in a Church which is not in communion with the Church of England but subscribes to the doctrine of the Holy Trinity and is also a member of the Church of England and has habitually attended public worship in the parish during the preceding six months

The PCC of the parish of **Gamlingay with Hatley St George and East Hatley** has set the Annual Meeting for 16 March 2025.

I would be very grateful if all of you wishing to go on the new Electoral Roll would please complete a form by **16 February 2025**. The new roll will be effective from 22 February 2025. Forms may be obtained from me or Gamlingay church.

Valerie Miller Electoral Roll Officer for Gamlingay with Hatley St George and East Hatley
vjm55@btinternet.com 01767 650779

(NB: A PDF of the application form can be downloaded [here](#). It will need to be printed off, filled in and returned as a hard copy to Valerie (or brought to church). Alternatively, it could be scanned and returned by email.)

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	

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.