

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



## Weekly newsletter 31 January 2025



### *From Hilary:*

Epiphany ends this Sunday with the feast of Candlemas. In looking for material for families, I discovered that there is a pagan festival called Imbolc - one description of it even says it's sometimes called Candlemas. However, although the pagan festival shares some of the themes i.e. those of life and light, and even purification, it does not recognise Jesus, light of the world, and can't be called Candlemas, as the name refers to a Christian feast (mass). It used to be a Sunday when the candles for the year were brought and blessed. The Sunday reading is of the visit of Jesus' parents with their firstborn son to the temple for the rite of purification - another name for the festival is 'The Presentation of Christ' and is the occasion when the Nuns Dimittis (Song of Simeon) used at Evensong appears in the Bible.

**The full revision of Church Electoral Rolls** is now underway in both parishes – see **page 4 for full information**. [Click here to download the application form](#).

### **For Children and Families**

As Epiphany ends with the Candlemas celebration on Sunday, material this week is about making light holders and looking at the story of Simeon and Anna in the temple. [Click here for your Candlemas sheet](#).

### **Sunday 9th February**

There will be some of my family at church in Gamlingay contributing to the worship music in honour of Norman's birthday. Singers who are comfortable with singing at short notice, are very welcome to join the impromptu choir - do let Hilary know so she can put anyone interested in touch with the right people. Depending on whether Everton people wish to join there might not be a service at Everton that Sunday (the Sunday after this) - watch this space.

### *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](mailto:brenda.elcome@ymail.com)*

## ***NEWS FROM EVERTON***

**The History Event** on 31st January will be tonight as this Newsletter goes out. This weekend there is a display in Everton church on the history of the church in the setting of its community.

**Everton's APCM** has been agreed for Sunday April 6<sup>th</sup> and the **Electoral Roll revision starts this week.** (See page 4 for full information.)

## ***NEWS FROM GAMLINGAY***

**Memory Lane** this week was to start with **Memory Books** but that is now for next time (February 25th) when we hope people will be bringing items for their books. Cakes were shared, news caught up on, and some jars were decorated.

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

**The Vicar of Dibley** is being performed by Gamlingay Players at Gamlingay Ecohub this weekend - tickets are believed to be sold out

### **Rest in Peace**

Thank you to everyone who helped with **Rebecca Stanton's** farewell, which will have taken place by the time you read this. Our love and prayers continue with her family, friends, work colleagues and pupils.

**Ray Sewell's funeral** takes place this coming week on Tuesday 4th February, 1.45pm at Bedford Crematorium.

**Gwen Janes' funeral** takes place on Tuesday 11th February, 12 noon at St Mary's, Gamlingay

**Jane Colebrook's funeral** will be on Thursday 13th February at 11am at St Mary's, hosted for Adrian from GBC where the service would have been held if the building were available.

## **QUIZ NIGHT**

**Friday 21<sup>st</sup> 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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.

## Benefice Services and Church Events for February

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

### Saturday 1st February

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

### 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 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 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 - TBC

### Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February

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

### 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.*

<b>Hilary Young</b> , Parish Priest	<a href="mailto:hilaryafyoung@gmail.com">hilaryafyoung@gmail.com</a>	650587
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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.

***NB: The basic information in the document below is relevant to both Parishes in the Benefice but please note that completed application forms should be returned as follows:***

***For Gamlingay and Hatley:***

Return by 16<sup>th</sup> February to Gamlingay Church or to Valerie Miller, Electoral Roll Officer for Gamlingay with Hatley St George and East Hatley [vjm55@btinternet.com](mailto:vjm55@btinternet.com) 01767 650779

***For Everton:***

Return by 16<sup>th</sup> March to Everton Church or to Dick Edwards, Stone Lodge, Everton Road Sandy SG19 2DE, or scan, and email to: [rje@stone-lodge.co.uk](mailto:rje@stone-lodge.co.uk)

Forms can also be obtained from and returned to Doreen Gurney at Manor Farm.

## **Electoral Roll Revision 2025**

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. [Click here to download the application form.](#)**

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<sup>th</sup> March 2025.

The APCM at **Everton** has been set for 6<sup>th</sup> April 2025.

Forms may be obtained from the churches or from the named Electoral Roll officers – see above.

***(NB: A pdf copy of the application form is attached to this Newsletter. It will need to be printed off, filled in and returned as a hard copy. Alternatively, it could be scanned and returned by email – see email addresses above.)***