

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



Weekly newsletter 14 November 2025



From Hilary:

Many thanks to Brenda for editing this week's newsletter, and prayers for further recovery. Thank you also to Les for leading the Evensong service this week at Everton, to help Chris out and leave Hilary free to baby-sit.

This Sunday counts down to Advent, with the last Sunday before Advent next week which can be celebrated as Christ the King. It is in honour of this Kingdom season that there is the option to use red as the liturgical colour (altar frontal and vestments) as an alternative to green for this week.

Deanery Synod

The Deanery Synod met on 12th November, feedback will follow next time.

Both our parishes are well behind with Share at this stage of the year. A final instalment in December will be reported on - both parishes welcome donations to top up what looks like being a significant short fall.

Diocese

Bishop Dagma writes:

CNC Prayer Request

It is finally happening – on Wednesday and Thursday this week, the Crown Nominations Committee (CNC) will interview candidates and discern who is to be the next Bishop of Ely.

Please pray for all involved in this,

- for the candidates undergoing a pretty rigorous process, that they will each be able to offer of their best and be at peace with the outcome;
- for the CNC with Archbishop Stephen, Bishop Guli (standing in for the Archbishop of Canterbury), the six national CNC members elected by General Synod, and our six from Ely (clergy: James Blandford-Baker, Sarah Gower, Alex Hughes; laity: Felicity Cook, Simon Kershaw, Christopher Townsend), that they will all work together well and be wise in their discernment;
- and for the judicious support offered by the Prime Minister's Appointments Secretary, Jonathan Hellewell, and the Archbishops' Appointments Secretary, Stephen Knott, who are accompanying the process.

What happens after this Thursday when the CNC has made a nomination?

The appointment is made by The Crown on the advice of the Prime Minister. So, the nomination the CNC makes goes to the Prime Minister and this name is passed to the Sovereign for approval. Downing Street then makes the announcement. We do not expect this announcement before some time in the new year.

A plea: members of CNC are bound by a strict confidentiality agreement, so please do not ask them to disclose what they cannot.

*We praise and thank you, God of the journey, for all your gifts to us in the past.
We look to you as fellow traveller and faithful companion on the way ahead.
Strengthen us by your Holy Spirit and guide the work of the CNC as they seek to discern
who you are calling to be our new Bishop, that together we may serve you as generous
and visible people of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Looking for a Chair of the Finance Committee, Ely Diocesan Board of Finance (EDBF)

I am looking to appoint a Chair of the Finance Committee. This important role provides financial leadership that supports the vision and mission of the Diocese, manages financial risks and promotes financial sustainability.

The Diocese is committed to both numerical and spiritual growth and sees finance as an active facilitator of mission. The post holder will be a responsible trustee of the financial and real property assets of the Diocese, and will also promote financial understanding and transparency.

The position is currently voluntary and unpaid (although an honorarium is being considered) and requires significant commitment, estimated at twelve to fifteen days p.a. Expenses will be reimbursed.

To find out more about this position, please visit the Diocesan website at

<https://www.elydiocese.org/about/news-jobs-and-events/job-vacancies/> For an informal discussion about this post, please contact the Chair of the Ely Diocesan Board of Finance, Chris Stanford-Beale, on chris.stanfordbeale@elydiocese.org

If you think this is a “you”-shaped role in which you could contribute to our diocesan life, please don’t hesitate to get in touch with Chris. Or maybe you know someone suitable, then please point them in this direction.

Many thanks indeed.

Hospice Funding Crisis

If you have been receiving my missives for a while, you will recall I have written about the Assisted Dying Bill. An important call in this debate was and remains the improvement of the provision and funding of hospice care. It is terrible news that many hospices are now experiencing a funding crisis. Hospices in our region include [Arthur Rank](#), [Milton](#), [Sue Ryder Thorpe Hall](#) and [Garden Hall](#). It appears Arthur Rank and Garden Hall are especially significantly affected, with Garden Hall seeing a £750,000 funding gap and Arthur Rank forecasting having to close 9 of their 21 Inpatient Unit beds if cuts go ahead. This is clearly deeply concerning and also very worrying for those who already know that they or their loved one will likely require and wish for a place in a hospice for the last phase of their lives in order to receive the best and most appropriate care supporting them and those who love them.

Arthur Rank Hospice has produced an easy guide on how to write to your MP which of course does not have to be only about Arthur Rank: [Write to your MP - Arthur Rank Hospice Charity](#)

There is also a petition by one of our MPs, Pippa Heylings, who has led a campaign on behalf of local LibDems to support Arthur Rank Hospice. You can find it here: [Save palliative care beds at Arthur Rank Hospices - Pippa Heylings MP](#)

See [here](#) for the BBC news story featuring Rick and Sue Nelms from our Diocese (Lordsbridge Team where Sue is an LLM).

It goes without saying that all hospices also welcome donations!

NEWS FROM THE HATLEYS

Thank you to Penny for opening the church and decorating it for Remembrance. Names of Hatley War Dead were read aloud at the civic ceremony at the war memorial in Gamlingay.

St Denis Churchyard task group meets on Saturday.

NEWS FROM EVERTON

The Church Organ is presently behaving itself. Any further news from the firm that cares for it will be conveyed to PCC and disseminated more widely as it is available.

Ashes interment takes place next Monday (18th) of Jean Cox, to be interred in the churchyard with Dorota Cox.

Remembrance: Members of the Sandy branch of the Royal British Legion were in Everton Churchyard on Saturday (8th November) to honour the airmen who are buried there. Some interesting memories were shared, and a wreath laid ahead of those laid at the War Memorial itself the next day.



Many thanks to Chris Miller for leading the Remembrance ceremony and service on the Sunday, which was much appreciated.

Church Clock: Many thanks to Mike and Nigel for meeting the representative of the clock company who came and restarted the clock. It is being tried without the chiming mechanism and being left to run for some weeks to see how things go. At present it is gaining fairly significantly, currently around half an hour out. It will, in due course, have made up the changed hour, but we await further adjustments for better time keeping when the clock people can next visit.

Christmas Coffee Morning: Saturday 29th November 10-12 noon - plans are well underway, help and offers of items for the stalls would be very welcome.

NEWS FROM GAMLINGAY

Simple Lunch takes place next week on 18th November, followed by Band of Ukes joining us for the Memory Lane meeting which follows on directly **in the Church Hall**

The churchyard working party was only Hilary this time, but some useful path clearing has been done, with more to follow (much needed) as time and weather allow. Next one is Wednesday 17th December.

Christmas Fair planning is well advanced, likewise publicity. Help is welcome in various ways detailed below

Christmas Fair and Grand Draw

Saturday 6th December, 12 noon - 4pm

We really need this to be a successful event – PLEASE CAN YOU HELP?

TONIGHT – Friday 14th November: If you can, please come to the Church Hall at 7pm and help to stuff raffle tickets and letters into envelopes for delivery around the village.

- Donations for the Grand Draw and food hamper
- Help distributing grand draw tickets round the village
- Help setting up and clearing away on the day of the Christmas Fair
- Help and provision of refreshments - cakes of course!
- Chocolate and bottle tombola donations (there are jars in church waiting to be filled)

Please spread the word to your friends.

GUILD OF ST MARY

The November meeting of the Guild is next Monday, 17th November when we will be welcoming the St. Neots Ukulele group (SNUKES) to inform and entertain us.

This is an open meeting when anyone is welcome to join us in Gamlingay Church Hall at 7.30pm. As always, the charge to visitors is £5 which includes refreshments and a raffle ticket.

It should be a fun evening so why not come along - we're a friendly bunch!

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	

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

Benefice Services and Events

Midweek said Eucharist services take place at St Mary's in Gamlingay every Wednesday at 9.30am but watch for late cancellations especially during holiday seasons.

November

Sunday 16th November - Trinity 22 (2 before Advent)

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

4.00pm Evensong at St. Mary's, Everton

Sunday 23rd November - Trinity 15 - Christ the King (Sunday next before Advent)

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

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

Saturday 29th November -

10 am -12noon Everton Christmas Coffee Morning in the Village Hall

Sunday 30th November- Advent Sunday

10am Benefice Eucharist and Advent Carols at Gamlingay St Mary

December into January

Saturday 6th December

12 noon – 4pm Christmas Fair and Grand Draw at Gamlingay

Sunday 7th December - Advent 2

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

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

Sunday 14th December - Advent 3

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

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

Sunday 21st December - Advent 4

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

11.15am Parish Carols at Everton St Mary

6.00pm Candlelit Carol Service at St. Mary's, Gamlingay

Monday 22nd December

7.00pm Carol Service at Hatley St George

Wednesday 24th December - Christmas Eve

3.00pm Christingle Service at Everton

4.30pm Christingle service at Gamlingay preceded by Nativity Walk

11.30pm First Communion of Christmas (Midnight Mass) at Gamlingay St Mary

Thursday 25th December - Christmas Day

9.00am Christmas Service at Hatley St George

10.00am Christmas Morning Eucharist at Gamlingay

10.00am Christmas Morning Service (Eucharist) at Everton

Sunday 28th December - Christmas 1, Holy Innocents

10am Benefice Service at St Mary's Everton

Wednesday 31st December

9.30am Midweek Eucharist for New Year's Eve at Gamlingay

Sunday 4th January - Celebrating The Epiphany

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

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

Afternoon Charity Concert in St Mary's 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.*