

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



Weekly newsletter 5 December 2025



From Hilary:

Advent is now underway and this Sunday, the second of Advent, has themes of Peace and the Prophets. Apologies that the Advent Candle prayer was missing last week but here it is below, with the one for this week too. These Advent Wreath prayers do not entirely follow the weekly themes but have a response praying for the unity of God's people. I've taken the liberty of swapping weeks 2 and 3 on the list, as they fit better this way round in my view - you will see what I mean next week.

Week 1

People of God: awake! The day is coming soon when you shall see God face to face. Remember the ways and the works of God. God calls you out of darkness to walk in the light of his coming. You are God's children.

Lord, make us one as we walk with Christ today and forever. Amen.



Week 2 (3)

People of God: return! You are called to be God's own. From the mountains announce the good news. God comes in justice and peace, to all who follow his ways. You are God's children.

Lord, make us one in the peace of Christ today and forever. Amen.

The Jesse symbols for this week refer to Old Testament prophets and help us reflect on the way God calls individuals to speak truth to their generation. Although one of Jesus' titles is 'Prince of Peace' he says himself that he has not come to bring peace. This seems rather contradictory, unless we recognise that there can be no true and lasting peace without justice, and we live in an unfair world as judged by human standards.

No one has, as yet, asked for an Advent group meeting this year. Contact Hilary if you would like to meet in person maybe once or twice before Christmas to reflect on the season's themes.

I'm not sure if anyone is joining me on the Angel theme for Advent this year, but I offer the following for a week two Angel:

Peace and Prophecy could have been represented by the same angel as last week with its theme of Hope, but for this week, what about the angel who comes to Gideon? (Judges 6.11-24 - probably not a familiar story to many of us). Gideon is set on a warrior's path to bring justice for the oppressed Israelites. As with many of the Old Testament angels, this one is directly identified as God part of the time - addressed as Lord by Gideon and answering as The Lord in the first person, but then referred to again as an angel when Gideon presents his gift. It seems fitting for this week, as Gideon calls the altar he builds after the encounter 'the Lord is peace'.

NEWS FROM EVERTON

Christmas Coffee Morning went very well. Well done and thank you to all the helpers, organisers and guests. See Jane Butcher's message below.

Community Soup and Social on 9th December is the last one this year. It will be a special Christmas meal which needs to be booked. The first of the New Year is on 6th January.

The Church Clock is to be visited by Cumbrian Clock Company next week, hopefully to get it running on time if not striking.

Everton Heath Primary School will be in church with their Christmas production on Tuesday and Wednesday 16th/17th in the afternoon.

PCC Meeting took place at the Rectory on Wednesday morning and covered significant ground. A meeting for the fledgling Buildings Group is being planned for Friday 19th December. More news on the clock will follow next time, all being well.

From Jane Butcher:

THANK YOU

- to everyone who came along (despite the rain) to support our Christmas Coffee Morning, held in the Village Hall last Saturday.
- to those who made cakes, sausage rolls and jams.
- for all the donations of raffle prizes and bottles for the Tombola.
- to all who helped set up on the Friday, manned stalls on the day and tidied up afterwards.

Everyone's help and support was very much appreciated, and we raised £578.10 for much needed Church funds.

NEWS FROM HATLEY ST GEORGE

RIP Mary Giardiello whose funeral will take place at Hatley St George church on Wednesday 17th December at 11am, followed by burial at Tadlow. Our sympathy with Mark and the rest of the family.

NEWS FROM GAMLINGAY



Christmas Fair and Grand Draw
Saturday 6th December, 12 noon - 4pm



THIS WEEKEND!

Please come along to church and support this major fundraising event, enjoy a variety of activities for all ages, delicious refreshments and get yourself into the Christmas spirit with a cup of mulled wine and Christmas music. The Grand Draw will take place during the afternoon and, who knows, you might have won a prize!

Christmas Lights Switch-on this last weekend seems to have gone very well. Congratulations to the new organising team, and many thanks to Ann who helped with the craft and provided warm fruit juice at St Mary's.

Simple Lunch this last Tuesday was the last until January. A smaller group than sometimes shared soup, sandwiches and cake and enjoyed one another's company. Donations amounted to £30.

Watch this space for what's going to happen in January, as Everton's Soup and Social dates are now on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays until April.

The churchyard working party will hopefully take place this coming Wednesday.

Christmas Fair takes place this Saturday, do come and encourage others.

The Climate Action Group (CAG) met on Wednesday this week, with a number of events in planning - more details of these as they arise

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.

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

Tuesday 23rd December

3pm Christingle making in St. Mary's Church, Gamlingay



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.*

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**Please let Brenda Elcome have any articles or pictures for the newsletter by Wednesday afternoon to
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.