

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



Weekly newsletter 12 December 2025



From Hilary:

This coming Sunday is already the 3rd Sunday of Advent, sometimes referred to as 'Gaudete Sunday' - the relaxation of Advent fasting (not something we need nowadays!). The Advent candle for this Sunday is pink with joy and rejoicing as the themes.

Next Sunday we will be Christmas caroling in earnest, but this week we have a last Sunday opportunity to avoid 'doing Christmas' ahead of time. There is, nevertheless, plenty going on this week, with schools in churches and the last Memory Lane moved forward to avoid the day before Christmas Eve. My prayer is that there is still daily opportunity to make space to just 'be in the present' in an attitude of attentiveness which will enable keeping balance in whatever is happening or about to happen. There is a funeral at Hatley on Wednesday, and another the following week in Gamlingay. Thoughts and prayers are with these families and all those for whom this Christmas, and Christmas in general, is challenging.

The next Newsletter will be the last before Christmas and also the last of the year - neither Brenda nor Hilary will have time (nor inclination!) to be publishing for Boxing Day. However, any urgent message may still be circulated through the usual channels. While on the subject, a special 'thank you' goes to those who spend time making sure we are all kept as up to date as possible with news from and for the Benefice.

Sad News from the Cathedral - +Dagma wrote

It is with great sadness that I write to let you know that our Canon Precentor at Ely Cathedral, Canon Jim Garrard, died unexpectedly this morning (8th December).

This news is a terrible shock to all who knew Jim, and of course especially to his wife Ros with Richard and Sophia. We give thanks for Jim's life and ministry: he has been the longest serving member of the Ely Chapter, having served here faithfully since 2008, and many of us will have either worked with him in preparation of services or certainly enjoyed the fruits of his work in worship at Ely Cathedral. May Jim rest in peace and rise in glory.

Further details regarding funeral arrangements will be shared in due course. Please do keep Ros, Richard, Sophia, members of Jim's family and friends, and the whole Cathedral community in your prayers at this time.

Advent Wreath Prayer

People of God: be glad! Your God delights in you, giving you joy for sadness and turning the dark to light. Be strong in hope therefore; for your God comes to save. You are God's children.

Lord, make us one in the love of Christ today and for ever. Amen.



Jesse symbols for this week are for John the Baptist, the forerunner who prepares the way for God's coming to humanity. [See attached sheet.](#)

In a way, preparations have been going on from the beginning of time, so another prophet is included. John's task is to declare the immanence, heralding the final act and calling people to make appropriate preparations - of hearts and minds.

The Angel for Advent 3 - bringing joy - is Gabriel (Luke 1.5-20) who will appear again next week. The 'Angel of the Lord' (male in the Bible, although so often represented as cute little girls in modern mythology) who appears to Zechariah, the Father of John the Baptist, foretelling his birth, identifies himself as Gabriel. Zechariah's disbelief results in his inability to speak until the angel's words are fulfilled. Disbelief is not always dealt with like this as we shall see next week, perhaps Zechariah should have known better, being a priest!

NEWS FROM EVERTON

Sunday Organist: At the time of going to press we do not have accompaniment for this Sunday's service as our usual organists are not available this week. There are hymns chosen and, if worshippers are willing, singing will take place either with recorded accompaniment or unaccompanied.

PCC have approved the final share payment, well done and huge thanks to the people who have worked to enable the increased ask to be met this year.

Community Soup and Social Christmas meal: Unfortunately, Hilary was unable to make use of her booked place due to illness, but reports confirm that it was well attended and went very well, with the school visit always a delight.

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

Buildings Group is to meet on Friday 19th December at 7pm at the Village Hall, when the next Newsletter is due out. Reports back will be in the New Year now.

The Church Clock has been reset and should be keeping better time. Consultation is taking place over how best to reinstate the striking mechanism. Thank you to those who have liaised with Sam from Cumbrian Clock Co.

NEWS FROM GAMLINGAY

From Jane Orchiston

Many thanks to all who contributed in any way to Gamlingay's very successful Christmas Fair last Saturday. The estimated profit from the Fair and the Grand Draw amounts to £2,020 (*awaiting verification*)



CHRISTINGLE MAKING & SERVICE

Christingle making will take place on Tuesday, 23rd December at 3pm in church. Many hands make light work so please come and help if you can.

The **Christingle Service** will take place at 4.30pm on Christmas Eve, preceded by the **Nativity Walk** commencing at 4pm outside The Jannah.

New Year Concert

Sunday 4th January, 3pm at St. Mary's Gamlingay
(*See attached poster*)

From Hilary

The Christmas Fair on Saturday was quieter than in the past, with Miss Alice celebrating a special birthday and unable to bring her dancers, however the sum of £2,020 was counted up (still to be verified). Huge thanks to Jane O and all the people who worked with her to raise this excellent sum in financially challenging times. Well done and thank you to everyone involved.

Last Memory Lane of 2025 will be at the usual time of 2-4pm, but on this coming Tuesday (16th) rather than the usual 4th Tuesday of the month which is too close to Christmas for the organisers. As well as some seasonal refreshments there will be a Christmas singsong with the Community Choir at 3pm.

Churchyard working party was cancelled this week due to ill health of likely participants.

Hilary attended the **Parish Council** meeting (who have responsibility for maintenance as the churchyard is closed for burials) when maintenance of the churchyard was discussed. The difficulties with communication with the contractors were heard and partially addressed - attempts will be made to improve things next year, or if not, to exclude the churchyard from the general mowing scheme.

Cambridge Scything Group leaders met last weekend and invited Hilary to join them to discuss the future of the group and plan for work next year. New members are welcome to join this group, which is founded around Haslingfield volunteers, now becoming a sort of loose cooperative of individuals keen on the use of scythes and managing grassland for wildlife. It was interesting to recognise that the group comes together from different directions: those who concentrate on meadow management and wildflowers, and those who are interested in using traditional basic tools and human power instead of using fuel and power tools. Working with a scythe is good exercise, requiring an element of skill and practice but offering great satisfaction for people it suits.

Climate Action Group of which the church is a member via Hilary, met and has much planned including another Repair Shop in the Spring. The good news was shared shortly after the meeting that a scythe has been bought for general use with a grant from the Turbine Fund.

Gamlingay Primary School will be at GBC in the morning on Tuesday 16th December

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@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.

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

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
3pm Afternoon Charity Concert in St Mary's Gamlingay (*See attached poster*)

*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.*