

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



Weekly newsletter 19 December 2025



HAPPY CHRISTMAS!



From Hilary:

This is the last Newsletter before Christmas, the next will be the first of the New Year 2026, so Happy New Year as well as blessings for a Happy Christmas to all our readers.

There are three services on this last Sunday of Advent, two of which are Christmas Carol Services. We sadly do not have children for Sunday nativity services in any of the churches of the Benefice, but Christingle services on Christmas Eve will have pop-up nativities, so there will be children's Christmas worship on Christmas Eve. **The Christmas morning service** will also be family-friendly at 10am in Gamlingay, **and the Hatley 9am service** will be tailored to whoever turns up! Music will be recorded.

This Sunday morning we remain in expectant Advent mode, although 'nearly there' for Christmas, with the account of the announcement of Jesus' birth. Matthew's Gospel, which we have this week, focusses on the response of Joseph rather than the, probably better-known, annunciation account of how Mary learns she is to be mother of the Messiah and responds with obedience and submissions to God's will. Joseph, too, has to respond in faith, and is encouraged to do so by an angelic dream.

Advent Wreath Prayer

People of God: prepare! God, above all, maker of all, is one with us in Christ.

Maranatha! Come, Lord Jesus!

God, the mighty God, bends down in love to earth.

Maranatha! Come, Lord Jesus!

God with us, God beside us, comes soon to the world he has made.

Maranatha! Come, Lord Jesus!

We are God's children, we seek the coming Christ.

Maranatha! Come, Lord Jesus!

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



Jesse symbols for this week are for the Holy Family - Joseph as well as Mary, reminding us of the birth narratives telling of how Love was incarnate on earth at Christmas.

The Angel for Advent 4 is Gabriel, who is named in both The Annunciation to Mary and in last week's story of the announcement of John's conception. There is an unnamed angel in the Gospel for this week - telling Joseph that Mary's pregnancy is a sign of God's intervention and not a human transgression. Matthew 18.1-25

The season of Advent Antiphons began on Wednesday this week, rooted in an ancient tradition of addressing prayers to God using seven titles, one for each day from 17th to 24th December. The full version of the Hymn/Carol 'O come, O Come Emmanuel' uses this tradition.

The season began with 'O sapientia' (Wisdom), then O Adonai (Lord), O Radix Jesse (Root of Jesse), Clavis David (Key of David), O Oriens (Dayspring/Dawn), Rex Gentium (Ruler of the gentiles) O Emmanuel (God with us)

NEWS FROM EVERTON

Sunday Organist: Well done to last Sunday's congregation who sang very well unaccompanied. And thank you to the Sunday and Christmas organists for providing musical accompaniment.

Everton Heath Primary School did an amazing job of performing twice to a full church of adults and children - friends and family. Special thanks to those who attended and were generous with donations towards the heating costs.

Buildings Group is to meet this evening as you read this, Friday 19th December at 7pm at the Village Hall. There will be a report back in the New Year.

NEWS FROM GAMLINGAY

Last Memory Lane of 2025 was an enjoyable affair with seasonal refreshments and entertainment (including audience participation!) from the Community Choir. The next meeting, in January will be on the 27th, look out for further information on what will be happening that day.



Churchyard: Special thanks, in advance, to Connor Leaf-Grimshaw and Jane Wallace who have offered voluntary help with looking after the churchyard in an environmentally-friendly way with weeding during the winter.

Gamlingay Primary School were at GBC in two relays in the morning on Tuesday 16th for their carol concert. Well done to all the children and staff, and special thanks to Rev Adrian for helping advertise all the Christmas events in Gamlingay, as well as encouraging us all to remember Jesus Christ on Christmas Day amidst all the celebrations.

Christmas Lunch: A reminder that there is a full-scale (free) Christmas lunch at the EcoHub on Christmas Day, for anyone alone who would enjoy company and entertainment. To book, contact GBC direct (or Hilary will pass on any interest).

Funerals - Monday 22nd December 1.00pm Susan Percival
Wednesday 7th January 11am TBC

“Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year” from Melbourne to all my church family.

Please accept my huge thanks for your support & love over the past year - I could not have managed without your care.

See you in 2026”.

Ros 🎅 🎄

From Jane Orchiston and the Fundraising Task Group:



In the busy run up to Christmas, please support the Children's Society by direct donation or by using an envelope at the Christingle service on Wednesday, 24th December at 4.30pm



Help is needed to make all the Christingles on Tuesday, 23rd December in church at 3pm.

Please come and help if you can - All welcome! - Oranges and materials supplied!

Looking forward to the **New Year Concert** on **4th January at 3pm**, we are asking for donations of ‘heavy nibbles’. Ask Brenda for more information on what is needed, please.

We wish you all well over the festive season, have a wonderful time!

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	

*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.*

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

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

NB: No midweek Eucharist this day at Gamlingay.

- 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 A Service of Readings, Carols and Communion for Christmas 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

January

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 [New Year Concert at St Mary's Gamlingay \(Click here for the poster\)](#)

Sunday 11th January - Epiphany 1 (Baptism of Christ)

- 9.30am Parish Eucharist at St. Mary's, Gamlingay
- 11.15am Parish Eucharist at St. Mary's, Everton

Sunday 18th January - Epiphany 2, Start of Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

- 9.30am Parish Eucharist Unity and Healing time at St. Mary's, Gamlingay
- 4pm Evensong at St. Mary's, Everton

Sunday 25th January - Epiphany 3

- 9.30am Parish Eucharist at St. Mary's, Gamlingay
- 11.15am Parish Eucharist at St. Mary's, Everton

February

Sunday 1st February Epiphany 4 Celebrating the Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas)

- 9.30am Parish All Age Eucharist at St. Mary's, Gamlingay + Baptism
- 11.15am Parish Eucharist at St. Mary's, Everton

Sunday 8th February 2 before Lent

- 9.30am Parish Eucharist at St. Mary's, Gamlingay
- 11.15am Parish Eucharist at St. Mary's, Everton

Sunday 15th February Sunday next before Lent

- 9.30am Parish Eucharist with healing time at St. Mary's, Gamlingay
- 4pm Evensong at St. Mary's, Everton

Wednesday 18th Ash Wednesday

- 9.30am Ash Wednesday Eucharist at St. Mary's, Gamlingay
- 7.00pm Ash Wednesday Eucharist at St. Mary's, Everton

Sunday 22nd First Sunday of Lent

- 9.30am Parish Eucharist at St. Mary's, Gamlingay
- 11.15am Parish Eucharist at St. Mary's, Everton