

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



## Weekly newsletter 24 December 2021



### *From Hilary...*

Huge thanks and best wishes to the Newsletter editors and all who have contributed to the Newsletters of 2021. This is the last one of the year and covers the first Sunday in January. If there is anything to circulate beyond what is here, it will be emailed direct.

As well as thanks to those who have contributed, this is a nudge that it is SO helpful to have contributions, even partial ones, from anyone involved in an event or planning one.

### **Carol Services**

The rapidly changing situation and advice relating to the new Covid variant meant services took place largely on Zoom, broadcast from the Everton and Hatley churches on the Sunday and Monday. Almost only those actually contributing to the services by singing or reading were physically present. Despite this, the candle-lit churches looked lovely and the musicians and readers did themselves and the occasion proud.

**Thank you** everyone for your contributions, particularly Chris Miller for all the music and help with planning. Also thank you to those who have given feedback, the services were greatly appreciated.

### **Advent 4 look-back**

The Angel of the week was the Angel Gabriel who announces the forthcoming birth of Jesus to his mother Mary. We have been focusing on Mary and Love during this final week leading up to Christmas. It seems particularly appropriate as her patience, love and determination in coping in uncertain times is so much our present-day theme and prayer.



## Christmas Angels

This week our Advent study comes to an end for another year, but our Christmas celebrations are just beginning. Although we don't have a study session as such, the angel who tells the shepherds in the fields about Jesus' birth is the one for this week, accompanied by the heavenly host singing praise to God and peace to men on earth. Chris and Hilary have shared their love of the carol 'It came upon a midnight clear' which will have been a bit of a theme song this year as 2021 closes and we look into 2022 with concern for the health of the nations and the planet.

## To worship, or not?

This week and last have seen plans made, and unmade, several times over the Carol Services and again concerning Christingle. Shortage of personnel and concerns about crowded gatherings mean that the Christingle services can no longer take place as originally intended. The balance of risk is constantly being re-evaluated so, as last week, what is written here may change. In particular, if key people become ill and have to isolate, or need to take care of themselves or others, it may be that services are either cancelled or very much curtailed. We can promise to do everything in our power to make something available on paper and on Zoom so keep watching email and social media and help one another to stay informed. Many 'regulars' are away this Christmas, but I look forward to celebrating with those who are here in whatever way we can in this most blessed season.

Watch social media to check whether the arrangements currently planned do go ahead as so much depends on key personnel staying well. Please continue to do lateral flow tests if you will be spending time with others and we are, of course, using face coverings in enclosed spaces as advised.

Current advice is that church services can proceed with suitable precautions. If that changes we will let everyone know what is happening.

## Christingle Celebrations

The Christingle service on Christmas Eve has become for many their Christmas worship. It is also an important fund-raiser for the Children's Society. For both these reasons we have chosen not to cancel entirely, but to seriously scale back what we would have done. So, there will be no service at Everton and no nativity walk in Gamlingay. There will, however, be Christingles available - we haven't decided whether as kits, ready-made up or a choice.

Come and collect a Christingle, make a donation and remember 'the reason for the season'



We expect to be making Christingles/making up kits under suitably careful Covid-safe arrangements in the Kingspan room on the evening of 23rd December, for use in both villages. If you are able to help with this process, please contact Hilary or Sandra. We will all be doing lateral flow tests before meeting in this way.

## Gamlingay Church Repair

The Builders finish for their Christmas/New Year break on December 23rd, so please be extra vigilant during the week they are away. They are making good progress, thanks to mainly helpful weather conditions

## RIP Colin Knibbs

Colin was given a lovely send-off by a goodly number of people, perfectly led by Chris Miller, despite the twin challenges of the closed church and Covid 19 variants spreading again.

The people of St Mary's in Gamlingay are very grateful to GBC for wonderful hospitality, including the use of their technology to broadcast the service. Colin's passion for Stock Car Racing and his long association with it were celebrated at the service and outside with a guard of honour of drivers and a row of the brightly coloured (and noisy!) cars.

Colin was known and loved by so many people and will be sorely missed. We commend him to our Lord and Saviour - may he rest in peace and rise in glory.

## This Week and Beyond

### Christmas, St Stephen, Secular New Year and Epiphany

#### Christmas Eve

- 4.00pm Christingles at the Church in Everton
- 4.30pm Christingles at the Hub in Gamlingay
- 11.30pm First Communion of Christmas (Midnight Mass) at Everton Church

#### Christmas Day Saturday

- 10.00am Carols for Christmas Day at Everton Church
- 10.00am Family Eucharist for Christmas morning at Hatley St George Church

#### Sunday after Christmas 26th December - St Stephen

- 10.00am All Age Communion at Everton Church
- 10.00am Family Communion for St. Stephen's Day at Everton Church

There is NO midweek communion this week

#### Sunday 2nd January

- 10.00am Shared All Age Communion for Epiphany and New Year at Everton Church

#### Sunday 9th January

- 10.00am Shared Eucharist at Everton Church for the Baptism of Christ (Epiphany 1)



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Prayers for blessings at Christmas and  
into the New Year 2022  
With love from Hilary and Norman.





Happy Christmas and Happy New Year to all our Newsletter readers. Thank you to all who have helped to make it both informative and entertaining. We look forward to receiving many more of your varied and interesting contributions next year. As always, they should be sent to Brenda by the Tuesday evening of each week.

*Brenda and Ian*

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#### A reminder of church opening times and some key contact details:

**Everton church** open Friday- Sunday, and on Bank Holiday Mondays 10am-4pm.

**Hatley church** can be opened on request.

**Gamlingay church** closed to the public until March.

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Please let Brenda have any articles or pictures  
by Tuesday evening each week to [Brenda.elcome@ymail.com](mailto:Brenda.elcome@ymail.com)