

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



Weekly newsletter 6 January 2023



From Hilary...

Thank you so much to those of you who shared Christmas wishes with Norman and myself this year by card and by special messages. We have been truly useless at getting our own greetings out apart from the general ones. You know who you are that have supported and greeted us this year so do be assured of our heartfelt gratitude - even if it wasn't that obvious externally, it is there!

Greetings and blessings for the New Year 2023 (secular) which begins with unseasonably mild weather most of the time, and bleak predictions concerning the economic situation for many in the coming year. Whether we find ourselves in the position of struggling to make ends continue to meet, or thankful for a cushion that means adjustments are very possible to maintain our living standards somewhere near the comfort we are used to, we begin with strikes disrupting the daily lives of many of us and rising fuel and food costs. This year will make demands on managing and generosity whatever our situation. May we be blessed with wisdom and insight to perceive what we ought to do, and courage and open heartedness to do it.

Looking Back at Christmas Services

While still with a sense of 'post Covid' it has been a joy to celebrate together, often mostly with people who do not regularly attend church. There has been a sense of sadness at what wasn't possible, with saying 'goodbye' to people no longer with us in this life and commiserating with those whose plans were disrupted by ongoing illness. Winter illnesses, including Covid, did prevent many from celebrating as they would have wished. Much love to you if that was your experience. May the true joy and peace of the season be with you.

Epiphany

Once again, this year I have been glad of the fact that we celebrate more than one day of Christmas - our decorations weren't fully in place until Jan 2nd, but it still feels important to put them up having fetched them out on Christmas Eve. We have, since Dec 25th, been 'following the star' whether actively or otherwise, as we moved from Christmas to Epiphany. Despite superstitions about decorations being up after 12th night, ours will definitely be in place at least until Sunday when we celebrate Epiphany in our services.

We were given a reflection by Stephen Cotterell to begin our journey through the Christmas season into Epiphany on 'how really wise were the wise men?' This week, as we approach the celebration of the Light of the World being made visible to the world beyond the Jewish Nation to which He was given, we have an opportunity to reflect on the light and shade in our own lives. May we all invite the eternal light to shine in us more brightly, to illuminate the lives of those around us as well as our own. What will your response be? The Wise Men bring gifts to the new King, what will you give? What gift will you accept from him?

Institution Service 15th January 2.30pm at Gamlingay Church

Although the date was agreed back in November, and outline plans in place mid-December, Christmas has overtaken thinking and I've only just written to PCC members in lieu of Church Wardens, to move our detailed planning for this service forward. As the service takes place 4 years into my ministry some of the standard format needs adjustment, but invitations are still relevant to the wider community to join in this affirmation of ministry in the community here. Please help in getting people there and make this an event for yourself. There will be refreshments after the service for everyone, and you are also invited to join Hilary for a more extended party at the Church Hall, RSVP for that to Hilary to help with catering numbers.

Services for January

Sunday 8th January, celebrating Epiphany

9.30am Eucharist at Gamlingay
11.15am Communion at Everton
3pm Charity Concert at Gamlingay in aid of Pancreatic Cancer Research.

Wednesday 11th January

9.30am Midweek Eucharist Gamlingay.

Sunday 15th January

9.30am Parish Eucharist at Gamlingay
11.15am Parish Eucharist at Everton
2.30pm Benefice Institution Service at Gamlingay followed by refreshments

Wednesday 18th January

9.30am Midweek Eucharist Gamlingay - Week of Prayer for Christian Unity begins

Sunday 22nd January

Third Sunday of Epiphany (Christian Unity Sunday)
?8am BCP Communion at Hatley St George - to be confirmed
9.30am Parish Eucharist at Gamlingay
4.30pm Evensong at Everton

Wednesday 25th January

9.30am Midweek Eucharist Gamlingay

Sunday 29th January

Celebrating the Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas)
9.30am Eucharist at Gamlingay, celebrating Light
11.15am Eucharist celebrating Light at Everton
?? Evening service of music celebrating light? To be confirmed

Wednesday 4th February

9.30am Midweek Eucharist Gamlingay

NEWS FROM EVERTON

The Christingle and Pop-Up Nativity Service at Everton provided a lovely, atmospheric start to Christmas proper, a real sense of Christmas as we stood in a circle and lit the Christingles to sing 'Away in a Manger' with one dressed-up Angel (thank you to her and family). Thank you to Jane B and Beverley for your work in making the Christingles this year. The sum of £85 was forwarded to The Children's Society.

The third Tuesday Lunch took place this week. This event continues to be well supported, providing a welcome meeting opportunity for folk in the village. Similar lunches will be starting up at the Church Hall in Gamlingay next Tuesday.

Congratulations to Jane Gurney for making this year's New Year's Honours list - here is the citation from the Palace Gazette.

Jane Ann GURNEY, Founder, Tilly Your Trailer Campaign. For services to the Agricultural Community.

NEWS FROM GAMLINGAY

The Christingle service at Gamlingay took place after a walk down the High Street from the Jannah and was enjoyed by a large congregation. Thank you to Wood View for donating the oranges, to those who assembled the Christingles, to the Guides for their help during the service and to our nativity people young and old - Nathan Titmus made a very sweet sleeping baby in the manger! Indeed, thank you to everyone for taking part and donating to the Children's Society - a sum of £269.44 is being sent off.

Churches Christmas Lunch at the Ecohub went very well. Thanks to generous financial support we have a small fund to put towards next year's event. We all were glad to have done it and have plans for something even better next year. Do let Hilary know if you want to be kept in mind, you don't have to be needy to join in! Part of the joy this year was the family atmosphere, a huge 'thank you' to the GBC families who made this their Christmas lunch.

New Year Charity Concert this Sunday, 8th January at 3pm, Gamlingay Church.

Plans for this Sunday's charity concert in aid of Pancreatic Cancer are now well in hand. Tickets include some nice wine donated to Carla by a generous benefactor as well as other refreshments. There will be plenty of tickets on the door, but advanced booking is encouraged, contact Hilary or Carla or book online. Contact Dawn for offers of help with refreshments.

RIP John Bennewith

Some Gamlingay church members will not know who John is/was, in that he joined us during Covid from Potton View Care Home. He has, however, been a member of our congregation for a while, as well as a great champion of church and community connections with the Care Home. He will be sorely missed. His death just before Christmas meant that the intended Christmas Communion at Potton View didn't happen, but I am confident he is safe home in eternity with the God he knew in Jesus Christ, and through that God with his beloved wife. John had asked for his service to take place at Gamlingay church. We await news on what the family are able to manage in that respect but will in any case look for an opportunity to collectively remember him for those locally who had come to know him.

Food and Hospitality

Through this coming year Hilary is inviting people to share **Sunday Lunch at the Rectory**. There will be weeks (like this coming one, with the Concert, and next week with the Institution service) when this won't work, but please let Hilary know if an invitation would be welcome and when you might be available. We can accommodate up to 6 additional people (8 total with ourselves) so families/friendship groups welcome. This is not just for Church people, let Hilary know if you are aware of others who might like to be included.



Tuesday Lunches

Starting this coming week – Tuesday 10th. Thank you to those already offering help – soups welcome and, particularly, help on the day to invite participants and set up at the Church Hall. Contact Hilary in the first instance, especially if you are willing to help coordinate this. Lunch will be simple soup (limited choice), bread and spread and possibly one dessert. We can accommodate special diets with advance warning and are looking to encourage families with small children to attend if it works for them.

The Big Blunham Book Sale

Saturday 25th February 2023. 10.00 am to 3.00 pm in Blunham Parish Church, MK44 3NQ,

There will be an enormous selection of nearly new books - specialist and fiction sorted into categories.

Homemade soup, homemade cakes, hot dogs, teas and coffees served all day.

All profits to Blunham Church Fabric Fund.

For further details please ring Sue and Peter Holden 01767 640572

Church opening times:

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

Hatley church can be opened on request.

Gamlingay church open daily 10am – 4pm.

Please let Brenda Elcome have any articles or pictures for the newsletter by Tuesday evening to Brenda.elcome@gmail.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.

Contact details below show who to contact in each parish:

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