

Harvest Festival Service Contributions

The Pastoral Committee will be co-ordinating the distribution of the Harvest Gifts following the service on **6 October**.

We will be delivering small gifts to the sick and housebound and to those who have recently been bereaved. Gifts of small parcels of fruit and flowers would be most welcome.

As we did last year, we will also be supporting the North Herts Sanctuary with all the non-perishable contributions: coffee, tea, sugar, sweet biscuits, jars of jam, cereals, tins of beans, cola/lemonade, soup, fruit, pasta etc. **Please, no alcohol**

Thank you for your support. *St Mark's Pastoral Committee*

New Internationalist

The September edition is now available to borrow from the mission table.

Weekly notice sheet

Please send notices for inclusion in the weekly sheet by 7pm Wednesday to deirdre.parr@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk or ring Deirdre on 456184.

St Mark's extends a warm welcome to newcomers.
If you are new here, please complete and detach this slip and give it to a warden or a sidesperson.

Name

Address

Tel.No.

Email address (if applicable)
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How to contact us

While a few telephone numbers of church members may be included in this web version of the notice sheet, most contact details for events are published only in the hard copy, available in church. If you have no access to this, please contact Deirdre Parr, one of the churchwardens, on 01462 456184 or e-mail deirdre.parr@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk

St Mark's Church



A member of Churches Together in Hitchin

15th September 2013

Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity

Readings for today

Exodus 32:7-14

1 Timothy 1:12-17

Luke 15:1-10



: to be read in church

Services today

8.00am	Holy Communion (p29 in folder)
10.00am	Family Service (p5 in folder)
11.15am	Holy Communion (p29 in folder)
1.00pm	Baptism of Ava Crow
2.00pm	Baptism of Lenny-Marc Prentice-Thomas
3.00pm	Baptism of Kylie Lawson

Please pray:

For the work of Hertfordshire County Council and North Hertfordshire District Council, and for all councillors, especially for those elected last Thursday for HCC Hitchin North Division, and for NHDC Oughton Ward.

PLEASE TAKE THESE NOTICES HOME WITH YOU

If you wish to receive this notice sheet via email in future, please send an email to deirdre.parr@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk

website: www.stmarks-hitchin.org.uk



Hymns for 10.00am

50 JP	Give me oil in my lamp
26 SF	Lord I lift your name on high
259 JP	To God be the glory
17 SF	In Christ alone
258 JP	This little light of mine

Diary for the week

Wed 18 Sept	9.15am	Morning Prayer
	7.00pm	Choir practice
Fri 20 Sept	9.30am	Little Lions

Next Sunday, 22 September – Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity

8.00am	Holy Communion
10.00am	Holy Communion

Notices

New Service Folders

Thank you to everyone who helped collate the new service folders over this last week. This has been a time-consuming job and I'm very grateful to everyone who offered their time to help. *Jane*

Appeal on behalf of Syrian refugees

Over the past few years, St Mark's has responded to urgent appeals by putting a red bucket in church and inviting contributions. At their meeting on Thursday, the DCC felt that the plight of Syrian refugees was one that demanded a response. Over two million people, including many children, have had to leave home with no idea when they will return and neighbouring countries are under severe pressure as they deal with them. The refugees include many from the Christian community which has been in Syria for two millennia. A bucket will be at the back of the church today and next Sunday and cash placed in it will be sent to the Syria Crisis Appeal of the Red Cross for its work in the area in partnership with the Red Crescent. If you have no cash with you or would prefer to give directly, you can do so online via <http://www.redcross.org.uk/> or by phone on 0845 054 7206. Many thanks.

PHASE Monthly Prayer Guide

The September/October guide can be found on the mission table.

Silver Survey

At the moment, St Mark's is a thriving, growing church. Most of our newer members are aged under 40, so we have recently focussed on setting up activities for younger people and families. In order to ensure that we continue to serve all members of the congregation as well as we can, the DCC has voted to concentrate on what we do, and what we could do better, for our older parishioners. Our first step towards achieving this is asking that group of people to tell us their views via a questionnaire. If you feel that you are a member of a more mature age group for which we should be doing more, please take a Silver Survey questionnaire from the back of church, take it home, complete it and put it into the box provided by Sunday 29 September.

New Church Drama Group

We are planning to start a new Drama Group in September for St Mark's. The group (final name to be decided) will be open to young people (Year 7 and upwards) and adults of **all** ages who would like to perform sketches and drama in church services. We expect that the sketches will be based around biblical stories and themes and will be a chance to share humour and a deeper understanding of God's word with our growing congregation.

Are you:

- someone who enjoys doing drama at school?
- someone who has experience in amateur and/or professional acting?
- someone who enjoys standing in front of an audience and making a fool of yourself?
- someone who has a loud and clear voice?
- someone who can write natural and humorous dialogue?
- someone who has experience directing drama in churches or other amateur productions?

If so, please come to a short meeting at 11:15am after church on **Sunday 22 September** to learn more. If you cannot attend this meeting, do contact me if you would like to be involved.

Edward Stone, Drama Coordinator

Prayer Group at St Mark's

Several people have expressed an interest in starting a regular prayer group which would meet fortnightly in members' homes on a Monday, Tuesday or Thursday morning at 10.00am. If you are interested in being part of the group, please let Clare Redd know which day would be best for you. Transport can be provided.

Churches Together in Hitchin Council Meeting Wednesday 18 September, 8.00pm at Walsworth Road Baptist Church

After one or two items of CTH business, most of the evening will be devoted to hearing how the Hitchin Foodbank has fared in its opening weeks and discussing how it can be more effective in our community. Those who have been involved in its establishment will speak and members of all churches will be welcome at the meeting.

The Council will be preceded at 7.30pm by the **Annual General Meeting of PHASE**, the Hitchin Churches' Schools Worker Project. We will receive a report of its work over the last year and its plans for the coming months. Again all are welcome. For more details about the above, contact John Richardson on 01462 435595.

Two ways of raising funds for PHASE in September

1. PHASE is one of the three charities to benefit from the **Waitrose Community Matters** scheme this month. This means that the more votes PHASE gets via the green tokens, the larger its share of the £1,000 which Waitrose donates each month. Please support PHASE in this way if you can and encourage your friends to do the same.

2. Phase Fun day: Saturday 21 September at Christchurch

organised by Molly Rackham, a Year 9 pupil at Hitchin Girls' School. Do support the event if you can. Some volunteers are still needed to help run activities such as Art & Crafts, Scalextric, face and nail painting, refreshments and BBQ. If anyone can help, including by donating cakes, please contact kieran.murphy@phase-hitchin.org or phone 01462 422940.