

Services in December and Christmas Services

Due to other services going on in December we do not have a Family Service on the third Sunday of December (15 Dec). However, there are lots of services in December which are very suitable for children as well as adults. Our main services will be:

Sunday 22 December

10.00am Family Communion and Sunday School Nativity Play
6.30pm Candlelit Service of Lessons and Carols

Christmas Eve

4.00pm Family Crib Service
11.30pm Candlelit Midnight Communion Service

Christmas Day

8.00am Holy Communion (said)
10.00am Christmas Family Communion

Notice Sheet

Please send notices for inclusion in this 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

8th December 2013

Second Sunday of Advent

Readings for today

Isaiah 11:1-10 

Romans 15:4-13 

Matthew 3:1-12 

: to be read in church

Services today

8.00am	Holy Communion (p73 in folder)
10.00am	Holy Communion (p73 in folder)
4.00pm	CTH Carols in the Market Place

For prayer:

Father God, you greet us in Christ by his birth among us, and by your Holy Spirit you continue to offer your saving love to every corner of the world.

As we send seasonal greetings to those whom we love and care for, hear the unspoken prayers of our hearts, and bless all those to whom we write, whether they be near or far. Amen

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

27 AMNS	On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
16 SF	The Candle Song
509 AMNS	Rise and hear! The Lord is speaking
484 AMNS	Long ago, prophets knew
326 MP	Immanuel, O Immanuel
423 AMNS	Thanks to God whose word was spoken

Diary for the week

Wed 11 Dec	9.15am 7.00pm	Morning Prayer Choir practice
Thur 12 Dec	2.00pm 6.30pm	Westmill Lawns Carol Service Group with No Name
Sat 14 Dec	7.00pm	North Herts All Girls' Choir Concert in church

Next Sunday, 15 December – Third Sunday of Advent

8.00am	Holy Communion (p73 in folder)
10.00am	Holy Communion (p73 in folder)
4.00pm	Baptism Service

Notices

Fellowship Group on Monday 9 December 7.30 pm

The group will be looking at *Advent: what does it mean, if anything, to you? Does it help, or not, in the secular lead-up to Christmas?* Further details from Helen Richardson.

Sunday School Nativity Rehearsal next Sunday

The Sunday School are hoping to rehearse the nativity play in church after the service next Sunday morning. If you have children involved please, if at all possible, try and enable your children to be there.

Christmas Cards at St Mark's

As we have so many friends at St Mark's some of us choose to give money to a charity that supports people in need rather than spending on Christmas cards. One card to everyone is then displayed in church together with a leaflet or information of some kind about that charity. If you would like to do this, please give a card and leaflet/information to me, Helen Richardson, or Jane, Vicar, and I will display them.

Welcomers/Sidespeople for the Christmas Services

We have a number of special services over the Christmas period and will have lots of visitors. Therefore, we would be very grateful if anyone would be able to act as a welcomer/sidesperson for these services (Carol Service, Crib Service, Midnight Service and 10am Christmas Day). If you are able to help, please add your name to the list on the sidespeople's table, or let Jane know. Many thanks.

TWO CHRISTMAS APPEALS

1 Christmas hampers for North Herts Sanctuary

Donations of Christmas goodies would be gratefully received, particularly festive items: tins of fruit; mince pies; Christmas cakes; crackers; sweets; chocolates; fancy biscuits; Christmas puddings; crisps; peanuts; nibbles and fizzy drinks – Coke, Pepsi etc. Please, **NO alcohol** of any description!

2 Gifts for the homeless who will be visiting Christchurch 'Somewhere To Go' initiative. (Mainly men)

Donations of toiletry items please: flannels; soap; disposable razors; deodorants; shampoo; shower gel; toothbrushes and toothpaste; tissues etc. (Please, **NO food, sweets or drink**) Please wrap your gifts and add a label saying 'A gift from your friends at St Mark's Church'

Please place your donations in the boxes provided at the back of church by Sunday, 22 December.

Many thanks.

Pastoral Group

Traidcraft Stall on 15 December

Next Sunday, there will be a Traidcraft stall of fairtrade goods after the 10am service. Fairtrade ensures that people who produce many of our daily goods are paid a fair wage to enable them to live with dignity and not have to resort to aid.

Installation of a new cross

Many of you will know that for quite a while now we have been pursuing the possibility of placing a large wooden cross on the Bedford Road boundary of the church car park. The exciting news is that the cross is being installed this coming Tuesday. To allow space for the cross a section of the hedge has been removed. Eventually a low fence will be placed on that section of the boundary. However, in the intermediate period the area is coned-off, but please take extra care if you are using the car park, particularly if you have children with you.

Silver Survey

Thank you to all who took the time to fill in our Silver Survey. The DCC have now had a chance to discuss what you fed back to us and as a result we're looking at 4 different things: 1) setting up a monthly church lunch on a weekday; 2) organising a central phone number people can call if they need lifts to events etc; 3) making notice sheets available for 2 weeks; 4) teaming up people who are willing to clear snow from paths etc with households which would welcome that help. If you would be interested in being part of a group to look at setting up a monthly lunch please let Jane know. Watch out in the notice sheet for more details about a central phone number for lifts. If you miss church one Sunday, you can pick up that week's notice sheet from the Welcomers' table the following Sunday. Finally, as the cold weather is upon us now, there is a list at the back of church today (and for the next fortnight), where people can offer to help with snow clearing and where others can indicate that they'd like this help. Please do add your name to the list if you'd like or can offer help. We'll attempt to pair up households which live close to each other.

Summer Fair

Despite the current low temperatures, we are beginning to think about a summer fair that we're hoping to hold in the Market Place on 14 June 2014. More details in the New Year, but please put this date in your diaries.