

### Churches Together in Hitchin Annual General Meeting

Churches Together's AGM will take place on Thursday 20 November, 8.00pm (tea/coffee from 7.30pm) at St Faith's Anglican/Methodist Church. The meeting will begin with reports on what has happened in 2014 and appointments for the coming year. Then the second part will focus on *Faith in Action Together* as representatives of Street Angels, Foodbank, Fairtrade, Christians against Poverty and Bancroft Project each describe their work in the town and their plans for the future. Members of all churches will be welcome at either or both parts of the meeting. Further details from John Richardson, the CTH Secretary, on 01462 435595.

**Please send notices for inclusion in this weekly sheet by 7pm Wed to [deirdre.parr@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk](mailto: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 .....

### 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, on 01462 456184 or e-mail [deirdre.parr@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk](mailto:deirdre.parr@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk)

# St Mark's Church



A member of Churches Together in Hitchin

16th November 2014

**Second Sunday before Advent  
Readings for today**

Zephaniah 1:7,12-18

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Matthew 25:14-30

### Services today

8.00am	Holy Communion (p29 in folder)
10.00am	Family Service (p5 in folder)
11.15am	Holy Communion (p29 in folder)

### For prayer:

We pray for Churches Together in Hitchin as it holds its Annual General Meeting this week; we give thanks for Jane Litchmore-Grant of the Church of God of Prophecy as she comes to the end of her year as Chair and we pray for Rev John Hardaker of Christchurch as he takes over this role.

### PLEASE TAKE THESE NOTICES HOME WITH YOU

If you would like to receive this notice sheet via email in future, please email [deirdre.parr@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk](mailto:deirdre.parr@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk)

website: [www.stmarks-hitchin.org.uk](http://www.stmarks-hitchin.org.uk)



### Hymns for 10.00am

179 MP	Go, tell it on the mountain
26 SF	Lord, I lift your name on high
13 SF	Beauty for brokenness
167 MP	Give me oil in my lamp
242 MP	Hosanna, hosanna

### Diary for the week beginning 17 Nov

Mon	10.00pm	Prayer Group meets at 19 Symonds Road
Tues	8.00pm	Fellowship Group meets at 19 Wilbury Way
	8.00pm	Deanery Synod meets at St Mark's
Wed	9.15am	Morning Prayer
	7.00pm	Choir Practice
Thur	9.30am	Fellowship Group meets at 22 Passingham Ave
	7.30pm	Fellowship Group meets at 52 Bessemer Close
	8.00pm	CTH AGM at St Faith's Church
Fri	9.30am	Little Lions
Sat	9.45am	Exploring Christianity

### Next Sunday, 23 November – Christ the King

8.00am	Holy Communion
10.00am	Holy Communion

### Notices

#### Church cleaning

Our church and hall are cleaned each week by two members of our cleaning team. With, as at present, 18 people on the team, each pair does a couple of hours cleaning 3 times a year. When the current rota runs out just before Christmas we shall lose 3 members of the team. If you could step in to fill one of these gaps, the Wardens (and the cleaning team!) would be delighted to hear from you. For more information or to offer help, please contact Louise Wills.

### Last Saturday's Cake Stall in the Market Place

Thank you to everyone who helped in any way with the cake stall on 8 November. Your efforts raised £280 for church funds. **Judy Page**

### Lists to Sign!

At the back of church today there are several lists that need your attention. They are as follows:

#### Church Lunch – Friday, 28 November at 12.30pm

Please sign up if you'd like to join us.

#### Children and Young People's Nativity – 21 December at 10.00am

Please sign if your children or young people would like to take part. and finally...

#### Travelling Crib

If you would like to offer our travelling crib a home this Advent then please sign up next to a date that is convenient for you. Please remember that you will need to be available to receive on one date and pass onto the next household 2 days later. If you'd like to know more about what is involved, please speak to Jane.

#### PHASE Prayer Guide for November/December

To find out what PHASE is doing in the last 5 weeks of the school term and what they would particularly welcome your prayers for, do take a Prayer Guide from the mission table.

#### ***Praising God – Sikhs and Christians compare notes: Wed 19 Nov, at the Ramgarhia Gurdwara, Bearton Avenue at 7.30 for 8.00pm***

The North Herts Inter Faith Forum extends a warm invitation to the above event which offers an occasion to hear and discuss expressions of the praise of God from both Sikh and Christian scriptures. It will be led by Mr Gulza Sahota, President of the Gurdwara, and the Rev Austin Smith and chaired by the vice-chairman of NHIFF, Ali Sheriff. People of all faiths, and none, are welcome. Please note that in order to enter the Gurdwara you will need to cover your head and take shoes off at the entrance. For further information or to have the texts beforehand, contact Rev Austin Smith: [ajdsmith@waitrose.com](mailto:ajdsmith@waitrose.com) or 01462 437433 (NB: parking on Bearton Ave may be limited)

### **Services at St Mark's in December and Christmas Services**

Instead of our usual Family Service on the third Sunday of the month (21 December), we shall be having a Family Communion and in place of the talk/sermon the Sunday School will be presenting their Nativity Play.

#### **Sunday 21 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

### **Preparing for Christmas – *Connections for Life***

The St Albans Diocesan Advent Challenge which begins on Sunday, 30 November is called *Connections for Life* and offers “a daily opportunity to think prayerfully about your relationship with the world, with other people and with God – and to allow that reflection to shape your life and actions.”

Receive a brief email: a bible verse, a short reflection, an image and a challenge for each day. Or get texts to your phone, or follow

**@live\_challenge**

Sign up at [www.livethechallenge.co.uk](http://www.livethechallenge.co.uk)

If you do not have access to the internet but would like to take part in the challenge, please sign the list at the back of church and a weekly sheet containing the verses and reflections can be downloaded and printed for you.

### **Bishop of St Albans' Harvest Appeal**

The amount raised at our Harvest services was £358 and this will go towards supporting literacy projects among women in Egypt. Many thanks to all who contributed so generously.

### **Help needed by Lister Hospital Chaplaincy**

The chaplaincy team at the Lister hospital is in need of volunteers to help get patients to the chapel on a Sunday morning. Volunteers would need to be able to offer their services once a month and the time commitment would be 9.00am-12noon. If this is something you feel able to help with, or would like further details please speak to Jane.