

## Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

This is observed throughout the world from 18 to 25 January. The theme this year, chosen by the churches of Brazil, is *The well is deep* based on John chapter 4.

Here in Hitchin, we will mark the week in various ways:

*Sundays 18 & 25 January:* morning pulpit exchanges

*Sunday 18 January - 6.30pm:* United Service at Walsworth Road Baptist Church, including the induction of the Rev John Hardaker of Christchurch as Chair of Churches Together in Hitchin

*Tuesday 20 January - 7.45pm:* Ladies' United Service at St Faith's

*Sunday 25 January - 6.30 pm:* Taizé Service at St Mark's

All are welcome at any of the above. More information from John Richardson 01462 435595. Material for the Week, including prayers, readings and reflections, can be found on the Churches Together in Britain and Ireland website - [www.ctbi.org.uk](http://www.ctbi.org.uk)

### Refreshments after the Taizé Service on Sunday 25 January

St Mark's is hosting the final united service of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. If you are able to help with serving and/or providing refreshments after this service, please sign the list at the back of church.

***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, do introduce yourself to Jane, our Vicar, who will be at the back of the church at the end of the service.

### 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

11 January 2015

The Baptism of Christ

### Services today

8.00am	Holy Communion (p29 in folder)
10.00am	Holy Communion (p15 in folder)

### For prayer:

We pray for the elderly who find the demands of a cold winter difficult and we ask that we all may be sensitive to their needs at this time

### Churches Together in Hitchin Prayer Link

We pray for the speaker at Hitchin Christian Centre's first session of their Theology Café this week; may they be able to explain the concept of Christianity in relation to the twenty-first century.

### 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)



### Readings for today

Genesis 1:1-5
Acts 19:1-7
Mark 1:4-11

### Hymns for 10.00am

142 AMNS	Hail to the Lord's Anointed
27 AMNS	On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
17 SF	In Christ alone my hope is found
26 SF	Lord, I lift your name on high
121 AMNS	To the name of our salvation

### Diary for the week beginning Monday 12 January

Mon 12	7.30pm	Fellowship Group meets at 16 Whitehurst Ave
Wed 14	9.15am 7.00pm	Morning Prayer Choir Practice
Thur 15	7.30pm	Fellowship Group meets at 52 Bessemer Close
Fri 16	9.30am	Little Lions

### Next Sunday, 18 January – Second Sunday of Epiphany

8.00am	Holy Communion
10.00am	Family Service and Parade
11.15am	Holy Communion
6.30pm	United Service for Week of Prayer for Christian Unity at Walsworth Road Baptist Church

### Notices

#### Church Lunch on Friday 23 January at 12.30pm

Why not come along and enjoy a three course meal for just £5.00 and good company thrown in free! Please sign the list at the back of church if you would like to come.

### Prayer Tree

As we begin a new year, we are altering how we use our Prayer Tree. Firstly, in addition to the green leaves, there are now some autumn-coloured leaves on which you are invited to write prayers of thanks. Secondly, on the fourth Sunday of each month all leaves on the Prayer Tree will be brought up during the offertory and offered to God. If you have placed a prayer on the Prayer Tree which is ongoing past the fourth Sunday of the month, then feel very free to write a fresh leaf and place it on the tree.

### Fellowship Groups meeting this week

New people are always welcome at any of the groups. For times and venues see 'Diary for the week'.

**Monday evening group:** two themes - Christmas and the New Year Covenant! We'll see what transpires!! Do join us even if you have not attended before.

**Helen Richardson** 435595 [helenwrich@btinternet.com](mailto:helenwrich@btinternet.com)

**Thursday evening group:** we shall be joining with the group proposed by Austin Smith below. Further details from **Andrew Parr** 456184 [wilderspin66@btinternet.com](mailto:wilderspin66@btinternet.com)

### 7 May will be UK Election Day! Can the Christian faith shed any light on the way we decide to vote?

Starting at 7.30pm this Thursday, at 52 Bessemer Close, a group will meet to discuss this – 3 meetings before Lent: 15 Jan, 5 and 19 Feb, 3 after Easter: 9, 16 and 30 April. We shall use the book 'Faith in Politics?' by Richard Harries, former Bishop of Oxford. Space is limited so please book your place asap via **Austin Smith** [ajdsmith@waitrose.com](mailto:ajdsmith@waitrose.com) or 01462-437433.

### St Mark's Cycle of Prayer for 2015

This cycle of prayer enables us, over the period of one month, to pray regularly for a variety of people and organisations. Some of the subjects reflect aspects of the life of the wider community, whilst others are of particular interest to our own district and church. Do help yourself to a copy from the Welcomers' table.