

Change of Vicar's email address

Please note that Jane's email address is now jane@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk Any other email address you may have for her will soon cease to work so please use only the above address.

News sheets in August

The news sheet will appear fortnightly rather than weekly in August. There will, therefore, be a news sheet on 14 and 28 August but none on 7 and 21 August. Please bear this in mind if you need to circulate information about events during the summer or early September.

From 4 September, we will revert to a weekly news sheet.

Please send items for inclusion, as usual, by 7pm on Wednesday evening to deirdre.parr@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk or ring 456184.

Receiving the news sheet by email

If you would like to have the news sheet and Sunday readings emailed to you each week, please email me at the above address or speak to me in church.

Deirdre Parr

St Mark's Church



A member of Churches Together in Hitchin

31 July 2016

Tenth Sunday after Trinity

Services today

8.00am	Holy Communion (p29 in folder)
10.00am	Holy Communion (separate service order) <i>We welcome Revd Jane Fox to preach and preside at this service</i>

Readings for today

Ecclesiastes 1: 2, 12-14
Colossians 3: 1-11
Luke 1: 13-21

St Mark's extends a warm welcome to newcomers

If you are new here, do introduce yourself to a Warden or Welcomer and feel free to take and fill in one of the newcomers' cards which you'll find on the Welcomers' table near the entrance to the hall.

PLEASE TAKE THESE NOTICES HOME WITH YOU

www.stmarks-hitchin.org.uk



Follow us on Twitter: @stmarkshitchin

Hymns and songs for 10.00am on 31 July

AMNS 102	My God, how wonderful thou art
AMNS 249	Take my life and let it be
AMNS 343	Be thou my vision
SF 23	As the deer
AMNS 205	Now thank we all our God

Diary for the week beginning Monday 1 August

Wed 3	9.15am	Morning Prayer
Thur 4	10.00am	Communion at Westmill Lawns
Fri 5	9.30am	Little Lions

Hall bookings – Thursday 4 to Saturday 6 August

Thur 4	9.00-11.30am	Monkey Club
Fri 5	9.00-11.30am	Little Lions
Sat 6	No bookings	

Next Sunday, 7 August – Eleventh Sunday after Trinity

8.00am	Holy Communion
10.00am	Holy Communion
6.30pm	SIX:30 Service
8.00pm	Sunday Social at The Angels

Hymns and songs for 10.00am on 7 August

SF 6	Lord for the years
JP 188	One more step along the world I go
AMNS 336	All my hope on God is founded
SF 28	We will lay our burden down
SF 11	There is a hope so sure

Diary for the week beginning Monday 8 August

Mon 8	2.00pm	Prayer Group meets at 30 Pirton Road
Wed 10	9.15am	Morning Prayer
	6.00pm	Wedding rehearsal
Fri 12	2.00pm	Wedding
	4.00pm	Wedding rehearsal

Hall bookings – Thursday 11 to Saturday 13 August

Thur 11	9.00-11.30am	Monkey Club
Fri 12	9.00-11.00am	Twins Club
	2.00 -3.00pm	Wedding in church
	4.00-5.00pm	Wedding rehearsal in church
Sat 13	No bookings	

Services on Sunday, 14 August – Twelfth Sunday after Trinity

8.00am	Holy Communion
10.00am	Holy Communion

Suggestions for Prayer

From the Churches Together in Hitchin Prayer Link, we pray for:
The Hub Church's new weekly service for families starting in September, asking that God will bring the participants and the money to finance this venture.

From our Cycle of Prayer we pray for:
 Christian Aid; the United Nations and all engaged in peace-making; members of St Mark's who live outside the district

Prayer Ministry

If you wish to pray with someone or to be prayed for at the end of the 10am service, Andrew will be near the side altar today (31st) and Jane next week (7 Aug) to listen, talk and pray with you.

Notices

Prayer Group

The next meeting of the Prayer Group will be at the home of Carol Fishlock (30 Pirton Road) on 8 August at 2.00pm. All are welcome. Regular members, please note the change of time.

Sunday School Lite

With the school holidays upon us, our normal crèche, Sunday School, Pathfinders and Travellers groups stop for the summer. However, from today, Sunday mornings will offer a slightly more family-friendly communion service with the opportunity for children and young people to go into the Vicarage garden (hall, if wet) for some games during the middle part of the service. While there is no formal crèche, toys will always be out in the hall should you want to use this area. Please note that **21 August will be Family Service**, followed by an 11.15am service of Holy Communion.

Volunteers urgently needed to join cleaning rota

The current cleaning rota runs out on 11 September and Louise would like to issue the new rota by 21 August. She would love to hear from anyone who could help with this vital job. Cleaners work in pairs and, obviously, the more people on the rota, the less often each pair has to clean. Currently, each pair cleans once every 8 weeks. At the very least, we would like a partner for the one person who cleans on her own but we would be delighted to get back to a frequency of once every 9 or 10 weeks. If you would like more information about what is involved, do talk to any of the current volunteers – you can find them listed (along with a list of the tasks involved) on the May to September rota on the noticeboard at the back of church. To offer your help or for more information, please contact Louise: 07812 520256 or louise@louisewills.onmicrosoft.com

Furniture moving on 14 August

In preparation for the cleaning of the church carpet on **15 August**, all the church furniture needs to be moved into the hall on the afternoon of **14 August**. If you can be free to help from 2-4pm, please let Trish or Louise know. We also need help to return the furniture on **18 August**. Again, if you can help that afternoon we would love to hear from you. *Trish and Louise*

New blinds for the hall

In 2012 we had a huge fundraising drive to enable us to update the hall and kitchen. With your generosity, we were able to fit the new oak folding doors, install the new kitchen and buy new chairs for the hall, all of which has created a more welcoming and more practical venue for meeting together. The last action on our Centenary Project list was to replace the very worn curtains. The DCC would like to recommend the installation of vertical blinds that will provide a safe, effective and practical solution. Kevin Banks, who owns *Hitchin Blinds* and is a member of our congregation and Fabric Committee, has kindly offered to supply new blinds at a substantial discount and to install them. The cost of the blinds is significantly less than that of new curtains, even if these were to be made by volunteers. Six blinds are needed, each costing about £115. The Centenary Fund cannot support this cost, so the Church Council would like to ask you to consider donating towards the purchase of these blinds; you could purchase all or part of a blind. If you would like to do this, please put your donation in an envelope, along with a note of your name and the amount you are giving and mark the envelope 'Centenary Fund – Blinds' (if donating by cheque, please make it payable to 'St Mark's Church, Hitchin'. Your donation can then be given in with the collection. As always with such requests, please do not feel under any pressure to contribute; we trust in God that the funds will become available in time.

Delivery of Prayer Cards

As part of our Mission Action Plan it was decided that we would aim to deliver prayer cards to roads or streets in our parish each week, aiming to cover our part of the town over a year, informing people that we would be praying for their road in the coming week and offering them a chance to ask for specific prayer. The prayer cards are now ready and samples can be seen at the back of church. We now need people to deliver them with the first delivery taking place in the week beginning 28 August. There is a list at the back of church with the sample cards, showing the street names and dates that they need to be delivered. The number in red indicates the approximate number of houses in the road(s). Could you help out by delivering to a road once or twice a year? If you can, please add your name next to the street or road and make a note of the dates you'll need to be delivering.

Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Historic Churches Annual 'Bike Ride' Saturday, 10 September 10am-6pm

In this annual event where participants are asked to get themselves sponsored, the money raised is split equally between the participants' chosen church and the Trust.

Over 600 churches and chapels can be visited. It's a very good way to visit our historic churches/chapels and to raise money for their upkeep. Any means of getting from one church to another is permissible – running, walking, travelling by bike, car, coach or on horseback! Last year no-one from St Mark's participated – it would be lovely if we could change that this year. Please do give this challenge your careful consideration and register your interest with **Mike Davies (01462 434202) or sign the form at the back of church.**

Thanks in anticipation. *Mike Davies, St Mark's Co-ordinator*

North Herts Sanctuary

The Sanctuary is in need of new underwear for its clients, especially for men. They are not allowed to distribute second-hand underwear for health and hygiene reasons. Today (31 July) and next Sunday (7 Aug) there will be a box in church in which to place your purchases if you wish to contribute to this appeal. Thank you in advance for your help.

Helen Richardson

Syrian refugee families coming to North Herts

To coincide with the first Syrian refugee families arriving in Hitchin and Letchworth under the government's Vulnerable Persons Scheme, *Herts Welcomes Syrian Families* (HWSF) has arranged a public meeting on Thursday, 4 August at the Minority Ethnic Forum in Whinbush Road Hitchin at 7.30pm. They will be pleased to welcome members of all churches to attend. Full details from John White on 07803 203459 or 01462 421950