

### Recycling to help our local hospice

Please do not throw away all those used stamps on your Christmas cards or printer cartridges empty after printing your Christmas letters and labels. Please put them in the collection boxes at the back of church to help raise funds for the Garden House Hospice.

### News sheet in December/January

There will be no news sheet on Christmas Day or on 1 January so please send any information for the weeks following those dates to [notices@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk](mailto:notices@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk) (or ring 456184) by **7pm on Wednesday 14 December** and it will be included in next Sunday's news sheet. For the news sheet of 8 January, please send any information by **7pm on Wednesday 4 January**.

### Receiving the news sheet by email

If you would like to receive this news sheet via email in future, please email Deirdre Parr using the above address.

# St Mark's Church



**A member of Churches Together in Hitchin**

**11 December 2016**

**Third Sunday of Advent**

**Services and events today**

|         |   |
|---------|---|
| 8.00am  | Holy Communion (p73 in folder)                              |
| 10.00am | Holy Communion (p73 in folder)                              |
| 11.30am | Baptism of Will McQuaid followed by a bring-and-share lunch |

### Readings for today

|                  |
|------------------|
| Isaiah 35: 1-10  |
| James 5: 7-10    |
| Matthew 11: 2-11 |

### St Mark's extends a warm welcome to newcomers

If you are new here, do introduce yourself to Jane, our Vicar, or to a Welcomer or Warden, 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](http://www.stmarks-hitchin.org.uk)



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### Hymns for 10.00am

|          |   |
|----------|---|
| AMNS 52  | The people that in darkness sat (omit vv 2 and 3) |
| AMNS 240 | Teach me, my God and King                         |
| AMNS 125 | O for a thousand tongues                          |
| AMNS 43  | A great and mighty wonder                         |
| SF 11    | There is a hope so sure                           |

### Diary for the week beginning Monday 12 December

|         |                               |                                      |
|---------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Mon 12  | 2.30pm                        | Prayer Group meets at 8 Lancaster Rd |
| Tue 13  | 9.45-11.10am<br>& 1.20-2.45pm | York Road Nursery visiting church    |
| Wed 14  | 9.15am<br>7.00pm              | Morning Prayer<br>Choir Practice     |
| Thur 15 | 9.50-10.10am                  | York Road Nursery visiting church    |
| Fri 16  | 9.30am                        | Little Lions                         |
| Sat 17  | 9.00am-12 noon                | Flower arrangers in church and hall  |

### Next Sunday, 18 December – Fourth Sunday of Advent

|         |                               |
|---------|-------------------------------|
| 8.00am  | Holy Communion                |
| 10.00am | Family Communion and Nativity |
| 6.30pm  | Carol Service                 |

### Suggestions for Prayer

#### From our Cycle of Prayer we pray for:

Those receiving communion at home; unemployed people and all living with poverty and debt; the residents of Kings Hedges.

#### From the Churches Together in Hitchin Prayer Link we pray for:

today's Carols in the Market Place (see notice) asking that it may be a time of rejoicing and proclaiming the message of Christ's birth; **Christchurch** as they seek a new way of working through revisions to their constitution.

#### Prayer Ministry

If you wish to pray with someone or to be prayed for at the end of the 10am service, John will be near the side altar to listen, talk and pray with you.

#### Notices

#### Nativity

The children's Nativity will be in the 10am service on 18 December. The rehearsals have been going really well and we can't wait to perform it for you. There will be a dress rehearsal after school on Friday, 16th (3:30pm for snacks and drinks, aiming to start rehearsing at 4pm). This year, all the children need to wear party clothes and then, during the Nativity, they will acquire headwear to indicate their part. Ideally, the party wear would be coloured appropriately for their part, e.g. angels in white and silver and shepherds in dull colours. Please ask if you aren't sure what this means for your son or daughter or if you need to borrow anything. Many thanks.

**Pippa Lally**

#### CTH Carols in the Market Place today, 11 December at 4.30pm

A slightly later start than usual to this annual Churches Together in Hitchin event as, this year, there is a lantern procession arranged by Rotary and local schools leading up to it. The carols will be introduced by Rev Andrew Henton Pusey of Walsworth Road Baptist Church and Father Tom O'Brien of Our Lady's Roman Catholic Church and will be accompanied by Hitchin Band. All are welcome.

## Christmas Services

This year we will be following our normal pattern of Christmas Services but with the addition of a second crib service on Christmas Eve. Both Crib Services will be virtually the same but the earlier service will be slightly calmer! Services will be as follows:

|               |                             |  |
|---------------|-----------------------------|--|
| Sunday 18 Dec | 10.00am<br>6.30pm           | Family Communion and Nativity<br>Service of Lessons and Carols           |
| Christmas Eve | 2.00pm<br>4.00pm<br>11.30pm | Family Crib Service<br>Family Crib Service<br>Midnight Communion Service |
| Christmas Day | 8.00am<br>10.00am           | Holy Communion (said)<br>Family Communion                                |
| Sunday 1 Jan  | 10.00am                     | Family Communion<br>(No 8.00am service this Sunday)                      |

## Mince pies after the Carol Service

We will, as usual, be having mince pies after our Carol Service next Sunday evening. Offers to supply these, home-made or bought, are welcome. If you can help, please contact Helen Richardson or just bring your contribution along on the morning of the 18th. Many thanks.

## Welcomers for Christmas Services

Last week we appealed for volunteers to act as welcomers to help ensure we give a really good welcome to the many people who will be coming to St Mark's over the Christmas period. 'Thank you' to those of you who have already signed up for this task. While some services are covered, others are still in need of welcomers. If you're able to offer to help in this way at any of the services listed above (except for the Nativity), please sign up on the list at the back of church.

## TWO CHRISTMAS APPEALS

### 1 Christmas hampers for North Herts. Sanctuary

Donations of Christmas goodies would be gratefully received, particularly the following festive items:

tins of fruit; mince pies; Christmas cakes; crackers; sweets; chocolates; fancy biscuits; Christmas puddings etc. Also some crisps; peanuts; nibbles and fizzy drinks – Coke, Pepsi etc. but, please, NO ALCOHOL of any description!

Please place your donation in the box provided at the back of church.

### 2 'Somewhere To Go' initiative at Built on Faith Bibleway Church, Westmill Community Centre

Gifts for the homeless (mainly men) who will be visiting 'Somewhere To Go' at the above venue:

Donations of toiletry items please: flannels; soap; disposable razors; deodorants (NOT spray-on); shampoo; shower cream/gel; toothbrushes and toothpaste etc. Please, NO food, sweets or drink. Please wrap your gifts and label them, adding:

'A gift from your friends at St Mark's Church'

Please place your wrapped donation in the box provided at the back of church. Many thanks.

**Pastoral Group**

### Volunteering at 'Somewhere To Go'

The 'Somewhere To Go' initiative will be running at Westmill Community Centre at the following times: Christmas Day, 11am-5pm; Monday, 26 Dec, 10am-4pm and Sunday, 1 January, 10am-4pm. If you would like to volunteer for one or more days or would like more information, please contact Leigh at [bof\\_biblewaychurch@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:bof_biblewaychurch@yahoo.co.uk)