

## Two urgent notices!

### 1 Mince pies after tonight's Carol Service

We will, as usual, be having mince pies after our Carol Service this evening. Offers to supply these, home-made or bought, are welcome. If you can help, please speak to Helen Richardson in church this morning. Many thanks

### 2 Welcomers needed for the 2pm and 4pm Crib Services

'Thank you' to those of you who have already signed up 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. However, we still need welcomers for both of the Crib Services on Christmas Eve. If you can help, please tell Jane or sign the list at the back of church.

### News sheet in December/January

There will be no news sheet on Christmas Day or on 1 January. The next news sheet, therefore, will appear on 8 January. If you would like to have an item included in that, please send it to

[notices@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk](mailto:notices@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk) (or ring 01462 456184) by **7pm on**

**Wednesday 4 January.**

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

### 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 using the above email address or phone number.

# St Mark's Church



**A member of Churches Together in Hitchin**

**18 December 2016**

**Fourth Sunday of Advent**

**Services today**

8.00am	Holy Communion (p73 in folder)
10.00am	Family Communion and Nativity (separate booklet)
6.30pm	Service of Lessons and Carols

**Readings for today**

Isaiah 7: 10-16
Romans 1: 1-7
Matthew 1: 18-25

**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)



**Follow us on Twitter: @stmarkshitchin**

**Diary for the week beginning Monday, 19 December**

Tue 20	1.30pm	Strathmore Infants' School Carols in church
Wed 21	9.15am 7.00pm	Morning Prayer Choir Practice
Sat 24	2.00pm 4.00pm 11.30pm	Family Crib Service Family Crib Service Midnight Communion

**Next Sunday, 25 December – Christmas Day**

8.00am	Holy Communion
10.00am	Family Communion

**Diary for the week beginning Monday, 26 December**

Wed 28	9.15am	Morning Prayer
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**Sunday, 1 January – First Sunday of Christmas**

No 8.00am Holy Communion	
10.00am	Family Communion
No SIX:30 Service (moved to 8 January – see notices)	

**Diary for the week beginning Monday, 2 January**

Wed 4	9.15am 6.00pm	Morning Prayer Wedding Rehearsal
Thur 5	10.00am	Communion at Westmill Lawns
Fri 6	9.30am	Little Lions
Sat 7	1.30pm	Wedding of Miranda Mumby and Martin Harris

**Sunday, 8 January – First Sunday of Epiphany**

8.00am	Holy Communion
10.00am	Holy Communion
6.30pm	SIX:30 Service

**Hymns for 10.00am on 18 December**

AMNS 30	Hark the glad sound! The Saviour comes
AMNS 164	Great Shepherd of thy people, hear (tune 272)
AMNS 121	To the name of our salvation
SF 19	Gabriel's message
AMNS 37	While shepherds watched their flocks

**Suggestions for Prayer**

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

The work of PHASE in Hitchin schools; local schools and colleges, their students and teachers; the residents of Dugdale Court.

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

**PHASE** as they deliver Christmas assemblies across the secondary schools; our own Nativity Play and Carol Service and for similar services taking place in all the churches throughout Hitchin.

**Notices**

**Happy Christmas!**

As we enter into our Christmas season, whether you are able to celebrate with us or with others this Christmas, we wish you a very happy Christmas. For those of our church family for whom Christmas will be harder this year, be assured of our prayers and our love during this time.

**Jane, John and Andrew.**

**On 8 January, we shall welcome Dawn Jenkins**, a Lay Reader-in-Training from St Paul's Walden who will be spending a month experiencing the life of St Mark's prior to being licensed in May. She will be attending as many groups and activities as she can during that time.

**Thursday Group: 7.45 for 8.00pm start in the hall on 5 January**

This meeting will be our AGM followed by Bingo. All welcome. Visitors £3 (includes refreshments). For further information contact Val Conetta.

**Message from Hot Chocolate Youth Group re 6:30 service on 8 Jan**

Dear All, on 8 January, we are hosting the monthly SIX:30 service. This is an informal style of worship, open to everyone. We are going to be exploring what forms of worship have inspired us to connect with God. We would love you to come and start the New Year with us! Do you need a lift? If so, do give Maggie Mellersh a call and we would be happy to help.

**Exploring Christianity**

Our Saturday morning group, which is accompanied by croissants and coffee, will be re-starting on 21 January, meeting every other week from then on until Easter. We will be looking at The Creeds. Anyone who would like to join us for this 6 session course is very welcome to come along at 9.45am (aiming to start discussing at 10am) on 21 January. Alternatively, talk to Jane to find out more.

**Recycling to help our local hospice**

The Garden House Hospice would be grateful for your used stamps and empty printer cartridges. Please put them in the collection boxes at the back of church.

**Monthly Foodbank collection**

This normally takes place on the last Sunday of the month which in December will be Christmas Day. In view of this, our December collection will take place a week late on 1 January. The following items are the most urgently needed: tinned ham, fish, rice pudding; long-life fruit juice; UHT milk; jam; mince pies; deodorant for both men and women. Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

**Safeguarding**

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. If you have any concerns please contact our safeguarding officer, Pauline Banks.