

### Phoenix Cards

Clare Banham will be bringing her collection of Phoenix cards and catalogues to Little Lions on Friday, 3 February and will also be leaving catalogues in church for the next few Sundays; please feel free to take a catalogue. A donation of 10% from all orders is made to St Mark's. Please return your catalogue, with or without an order, and a cheque to accompany any order to either Jane, Deena or Clare by Sunday, 5 February. Due to holiday, the earliest Clare can deliver your order to church will be Sunday, 26 February.

### Receiving the news sheet by email or submitting notices

If you would like either to receive this news sheet via email in future or to have a notice included in the next news sheet, please email [notices@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk](mailto:notices@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk) or ring Deirdre Parr on 456184.

***Please send notices for inclusion in the news sheet by 7pm on Wed evening.***

### 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**

**15 January 2017**

**Second Sunday of Epiphany**

**Services today**

8.00am	Holy Communion (p29 in folder)
10.00am	Family Service (p5 in folder)
11.15am	Holy Communion (p29 in folder)
2.00pm	Baptism Service
4.00pm	In Loving Memory Service in association with Chenery's Funeral Directors

**Readings for today**

Isaiah 49: 1-7
1 Corinthians 1: 1-9
John 1: 29-42

**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**

### Songs for 10.00am

JP 325	Come on and celebrate
JP 94	If I were a butterfly
SF 1	Be still, for the presence of the Lord
JP 258	This little light of mine
SF 2	Lord, the light of your love

### Diary for the week beginning Monday, 16 January

Mon 16	2.00pm	Prayer Group meets at 8 Lancaster Rd
Wed 18	9.15am 7.00pm	Morning Prayer Choir Practice
Thur 19	3-5pm	Cleaning of church hall, foyer etc
Fri 20	9.30am	Little Lions
Sat 21	9.45am	Exploring Christianity (at 172 Old Hale Way rather than in hall)

### Next Sunday, 22 January – Third Sunday of Epiphany

8.00am	Holy Communion
10.00am	Holy Communion
6.30pm	United Service at Tilehouse Street Baptist Church

### Suggestions for Prayer

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

the annual **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity** which begins on Wednesday and whose theme this year is *Reconciliation: the Love of Christ compels us (based on 2 Corinthians 5:14-20)*. We pray that this may inspire us to draw more closely to each other as we serve Christ; **PHASE** and this week's meeting of Hitchin Youth Forum.

#### From the St Mark's Cycle of Prayer\*, we pray for:

Our organist, choir, music group and drama group; people living with drug addiction and alcoholism; the residents of Bingen Road

\*If you didn't get a copy of the 2017 Cycle of Prayer last Sunday, do help yourself to a copy from the Welcomers' table.

### Notices

#### Church Lunch

Our next monthly church lunch will be on Friday, 27 January at 12.30pm. If you would like to join us, please sign up on the list at the back of church.

#### Delivering prayer cards: help needed for week beginning 22 January

We still have a blank next week on our weekly delivery rota to a road or roads in our parish. If you could help deliver cards to Westmill Lane, Burford Way and Carling Place next week, please sign the rota on the Mission notice board or let Jane know.

#### Exploring Christianity

We will be beginning a new series on Saturday mornings, spending six weeks over the next few months looking at The Creed. If you'd like to join us, you'd be very welcome. The group meets at 9.45am for coffee and pains au chocolat, with discussion starting at 10.00am. We usually meet in the church hall, but on the first week (21 January) we will be meeting at 172 Old Hale Way. Further dates are 4 and 18 February, 4 and 18 March and 1 April.

**Traidcraft Stall** will be at the back of the church next Sunday, 22 Jan. Following discussion at the DCC, it was agreed that for a trial period the stall could be in the church again to enable it to be held on different Sundays. For more details contact Maggie Mellersh.

### **Church cleaning**

For some years, we have relied on volunteers to clean the church but, over the last few years, we have struggled to get new volunteers to relieve those who have been doing it for many years, and it has become increasingly hard to juggle cleaning times with increased hall use. So in December, the DCC agreed that we would engage a commercial cleaning company to undertake the weekly cleaning of the kitchen, hall, foyer and toilet areas. They will not be cleaning the church itself, which will continue to be cleaned by volunteers from the congregation. The Wardens propose to put together a timetable of cleaning tasks within the church, including regular "spring clean" days of various areas. If you would be willing to assist with this, or have any questions about the new arrangements, do speak to Louise Wills or Trish Reed. The cleaning company will come every week on Thursday between 3 and 5pm, so the hall will not be available for booking at that time.

### **Speak Up for your faith!**

Shortly before Christmas, the Evangelical Alliance and the Lawyers' Christian Fellowship put out a joint publication called *Speak Up: A Brief Guide to the Law and Your Gospel Freedoms*. You may have heard about it because it got some press coverage when the Prime Minister welcomed its publication during Prime Minister's Questions in Parliament. The purpose of the publication is to encourage Christians to share their faith, by giving them a clear understanding of the legal freedoms they have to do so. It covers sharing the gospel in private spaces, at work, and in public. There is a full report and also a handy 16-page summary. Both are available online at <http://www.eauk.org/current-affairs/politics/speak-up.cfm> and some hard copies of the summary version are on the table at the back of church.

### **Church Property Register (formerly Terrier and Inventory)**

The Wardens are currently carrying out a full inventory review, the first in 30 years. A draft version of this revised document is on the table at the back of church. Please have a look at this draft and make comments where appropriate, either in writing on the document or in person to Trisha or Louise if you prefer. The complete inventory will be presented to DCC on 9 February for approval.

### **Request for documentation or photos relating to St Mark's history**

The Wardens are asking for the return of any documentation or photos which form part of St Mark's history. As part of the inventory review, they will be recording all the documentation and archiving it in the Hertfordshire Archive along with all other church information. Church members will be able to have copies of any paperwork that they want to use for other purposes if they specify what is needed.

### **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**

Churches Together in Hitchin is marking this international week of prayer with the following:

- today and next Sunday: exchange of ministers at morning services
- Sunday 22 January 6.30pm at Tilehouse Street Baptist Church: united service, including the induction of the Rev Dr Jane Mainwaring of St Mark's as the Chair of Churches Together in Hitchin
- Sunday 29 January 6.30pm at St Mark's: evening service in the style of the Taizé Community.

The theme of this year's Week of Prayer, chosen by the churches of Germany, is **Crossing Barriers** based on 2 Corinthians 5:14-20. If you would like to use the material personally, go to [www.ctbi.org.uk/weekofprayer](http://www.ctbi.org.uk/weekofprayer)

Further information about any of the above from John Richardson.