

Christmas lunch – We will be offering a Christmas Lunch to anyone who would like to join us on Christmas Day, from 1pm until 4pm. If you would like to come, please sign the sheet at the back of church so that we have an idea of numbers, the closing date for which is 26th November. If you have any questions please call Joy.

St Andrew's Primary School

St Andrew's are in search of new Foundation Governors who are not current parents of children in the school. If you are interested then please let Jane know.

Christian Aid Week Collection May 2017 Hitchin & Villages

We raised a grand total £16,698 - the gift aided amount of this which is included £8,427. In 2016 total was £17,950 - gift aided amount £7,798. What we don't know is any money donated by text or online. It's interesting that the gift aid was up. A Big Thank you for those who did much organising, footslogging round the streets sometimes in pouring rain, or ran fundraising events.

Helen Richardson CTH Organiser for Hitchin and Villages.

Prayer Leaflets We are beginning to deliver pray leaflets through the homes in our part of town, a road at a time over the coming year. If you would be prepared to deliver the pray leaflets to a street please have a look at the list on the mission board and sign up for a street. If you'd like any further details please talk to Jane.

To receive the news sheet by email or submit a notice

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 or ring Tricia Reed on 440278.

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

⊕ **St Mark's Church Hitchin** ⊕

A member of Churches Together in Hitchin

15th October 2017 *(web)*
18th Sunday after Trinity

Services and events for today

8.00am	Holy Communion (pg 29 in folder)
10am	Family Service (pg 5 in folder)
11.15	Holy Communion (pg 29 in folder)
1pm	Baptism of Elijah and Ellis Uchendu
3.30pm	Messy Church meeting

Readings for today

Exodus 32. 1-14
Philippians 4. 1-9
Matthew 22. 1-14

St Mark's extends a warm welcome to newcomers

If you are new here, do introduce yourself to our Vicar Jane, our Curate Jeni, 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



Follow us on Twitter: @stmarkshitchin

Hymns for 10.00am

F17	In Christ alone
JP139	Jesus love is very wonderful
F1	Be still for the power of the Lord
JP 179	O Lord my God
JP 50	Give me oil in my lamp

Diary for week beginning Monday 16 October

18 Oct	9.15am	Holy Communion (said) for St Luke's Day
	7pm	Choir Practice
20 Oct	9.30am	Little Lions
21 Oct	9.45am	Exploring Christianity
	9.30am	Alpha away day

Services for Sunday, 22 October – 19th Sunday after Trinity

8am	Holy Communion
10am	Holy Communion

From the St Mark's Cycle of Prayer, we pray for: Organist, choir, music group and drama group, and for people living with drug addiction and alcoholism. We also pray for the residents of Lower Innings and Spellbrooke.

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

We give thanks today for the work of Churches Together in Hitchin past, present and future. By name we hold in our prayers an early chairperson Jenny Nicholson, still active in promoting ecumenism here in Hitchin, Jean Cleare, an early secretary of Churches Together, and similarly still active, but now living in the West Country.

We also pray for John and Helen Richardson who have spent all their married life promoting ecumenism in our town. We pray that characters like these, and others too many to mention, will prove an inspiration to those that follow and who will build on the strong foundations that they have laid.

The Built on Faith Bibleway Church ask for prayer support as they prepare to welcome the Ellel ministry team to minister and teach on forgiveness and healing in Hitchin next Saturday. We pray with them for this powerful ministry to inspire them in their ministry to our town.

Notices

Thursday Group

The next Thursday Group meeting is on November 2nd and will be a Dry Flower arrangement workshop led by Val Chamberlain. All are welcome. Please bring a small vase or jug. Materials will be provided. We meet in the church hall 7.45pm for 8pm start. Entry £3 (inc. refreshments). Contact Val Conetta (01462 624910) for further details.

Pam and Mike send a big thank you to all those who sent good wishes, gifts and cards on the occasion of their Golden Wedding Anniversary.

Remembrance Help

I am looking to borrow a large globe to use in my children and young people's talk on Remembrance Sunday. It will end up with poppies stuck all over it so no family heir-looms please! I would also be really grateful of someone's help in cutting out some paper poppies if anyone has the time to spare. Thank you as ever, Jeni.

Hate Crime Awareness Week in Hitchin Town Market Place – This Monday, Wednesday & Thursday 1000h – 1400h. Organised by Hertfordshire Constabulary. See Notice Board outside the Church Hall for more details.

North Herts Sanctuary

Thank you for your kind harvest donations. They are put to good use for our residents both at the hostel and in our move-on properties and where appropriate to homeless who call at the door in very obvious need. We are extremely grateful for the support shown from members of the local community. Your continued generosity is greatly appreciated by everyone here.

(Full letter on notice board at back of church)

TRAIDCRAFT STALL – will be in church next Sunday, 22nd October.

Traidcraft was established in 1979 as a Christian response to poverty, and it is both a trading company and a development charity. Traidcraft supports hundreds of thousands of farmers and producers in developing countries to trade their way out of poverty, helping them work together successfully, opening up local and wider markets, and supporting them to build sustainable futures. Traidcraft also campaigns to change unfair trade practices, influencing policy makers and challenging other businesses to behave ethically.

We are part of a global community, and it is our love for those who are poor and exploited that should move us to seek justice, and question the way that society is run. Buying products with the Fairtrade Mark is one way that we can make a difference – from Traidcraft, Oxfam or from your local supermarket, most of whom sell at least Fairtrade coffee, tea, sugar, chocolate and bananas these days. If you'd like to know more please speak to Maggie Mellersh or Helen Richardson.

Safeguarding

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