

⊕ St Mark's Church Hitchin ⊕

A member of Churches Together in Hitchin

5 November 2017 *(web)*

All Saints Day and Fourth Sunday Before Advent

Services and events for today

8.00am	Holy Communion (pg 29 in folder)
10am	Holy Communion (pg 15 in folder)
8pm	Sunday Social at The Angels

Readings for today

Revelation 7. 9-17
John 3. 1-3
Matthew 5. 1-12

St Mark's extends a warm welcome to newcomers

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



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Hymns for 10.00am

209	Through all the changing scenes of life
238	Blest are the pure in heart
SF 12	Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?
SF 31	This is Saint Mark
SF 2	Lord, the light of your love is shining

Diary for week beginning Monday 6 November

6 Nov	2pm	Prayer group meeting
8 Nov	9.15am	Morning Prayer
	7pm	Choir Practice
	8.15pm	DCC Standing Committee Meets
11 Nov	9.45am	Exploring Christianity Group meets

Services for Sunday, 12 November – Remembrance Sunday

8am	Holy Communion
10am	Remembrance Sunday Family Communion and Parade service with Act of Remembrance and separate adult and young people's talks
2.30pm	Civic Service of Remembrance at St Mary's
2.30pm	Talk by Sally Burke on her experiences in Malawi

From the St Mark's Cycle of Prayer, we pray for: Those receiving communion at home, unemployed people, and all living with poverty and debt. We also pray for the residents of North Places and South Place.

From The Churches Together in Hitchin Prayer Link, we pray for Please pray for the "Link to Hope Shoebox Project running" at Walsworth Road Baptist Church from 6 - 13 November. We join with them in giving thanks for the many schools, churches and community groups that are involved.

Prayer Ministry: If you wish to pray with someone or to be prayed for at the end of the 10am service, Jeni will be near the pulpit in the side aisle to listen, talk and pray with you.

Notices

A Day in the Life of a Vicar

A few months ago, a company called True Tube did some filming in church for an educational video for 11-13 year olds. The video is now on their website. If you'd like to take a look the link is

<https://www.truetube.co.uk/film/day-life-christian-vicar>

Messy St Mark's

Our next Messy St Mark's at Oughton Primary school will be on 7th December from 3.15-4.45pm (a change to the original date). We'll be sharing the Christmas Story through crafts, song and of course through telling the story itself. Apart from the cereal boxes Ann Wakefield has already asked for, we could also do with some old shirts or blouses that we can use as aprons for children. If you have any to spare (you really won't want them back afterwards!) then please pass them to Jane. We are also in real need of a couple of extra helpers to help with the craft activities. All the preparation would be done for you, we just need your hands and your smile! Jane would be delighted to hear from anyone who would be willing to help on 7th December. (tel: 434686 or email: jane@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk).

“Will Aid Month” benefits Christian Aid

Every November participating solicitors waive their fee for writing or updating a basic will. Instead they invite clients to make a voluntary donation of £96 for a single basic will and £150 for a pair of basic mirror wills. Over the years, Will Aid has raised an amazing £18m for the vital work of the nine Will Aid charities, changing lives in the UK and around the world. According to their advert in the Christian Aid Magazine, you get a professionally drawn-up will whilst the charities receive much needed donations. Visit willaid.org.uk to find the contact details of a participating solicitor in your area or call Will Aid on 0300 0309 558 for details of a solicitor near you.

Communion before confirmation

For a long time, the parish has had a policy of allowing children from Year 5 and above to receive communion, after a time of preparation, before being confirmed at an older age. We currently have a few children interested in this. Therefore, we are looking to run some preparation sessions in the new year, during the Sunday morning services, for any of our children or young people interested in exploring this further. Please speak to Jane for further details.

Nature Garden

During the past few months the area off St Mark's Close near to the emergency exit has been cleared of scrub, the pathway uncovered and is ready for planting. Pam is making a hedgehog garden and Elliot is providing a bug house. If anyone has any experience of developing such a project, or would like to donate a bird box, feeder or their expertise, please would you contact Kevin Banks.

White Peace Poppies

These will be available from Sunday Oct 29th in Bradbury, Welcome area, Christchurch. They will also be there, over the next fortnight, during Open Church sessions. For Details contact: Kathleen Tuck jeanella43@hotmail.co.uk

Lourdes Pilgrimage-June18th-22nd 2018 led by Father Tom O'Brian

To book a place contact Trish Bonnett trishbonnett@rcdow.org.uk
Full details on the poster in the Bradbury area, Christchurch or contact Owen McFarlane 07982640187

Traidcraft Christmas Catalogues are available from the back of the church. If you would like to place an order via Maggie Mellersh (no p&p costs) please let her have the order by Sunday 12th November. Otherwise you can order online from www.traidcraftshop.co.uk

Advanced Notice of Advent services

Advent will soon be upon us and as well as our normal Sunday morning services there will also be an Advent Carol Service on 3rd Dec (Advent Sunday) at 4pm. On 17th December, when we would normally have our Family Communion and Nativity service at 10am, we are trying a slightly different format this year. This year we are splitting the communion from the nativity, but with an opportunity for people to still enjoy both parts of the service. Therefore, services on 17th December will be as follows:

8.00am Holy Communion (said)

10.00am Holy Communion (said)

10.45am Sunday School Nativity with Carols

6.30pm Service of Lessons and Carols

As ever, there will be a warm welcome to anyone who wishes to join with us for any of these services.

Carols Service at Westmill Lawns and Nightingale House

This year we will be taking Carol Services at both Westmill Lawns and Nightingale House. It would be really helpful to have some extra people to come along and boost the singing. If you're able to help the dates are as follows: Nightingale House 2.00pm on Wednesday 13th Dec, Westmill Lawns 2.30pm on Friday 15th December. If you'd like more information please contact Jane.

Real Advent Calendars

There is a signup sheet at the back of church if you would like to order a Real Advent Calendar – as well as delicious Fairtrade chocolates they also have a story/activity book, and the real story of Christmas! £3.99 each, orders please by Sunday 12th November. For more info contact Maggie Mellersh.

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 Hukin .

Statement about the late Bishop Hubert Victor Whitsey

The Church of England has been supporting the police on an investigation into allegations of sexual offences against children and adults by the late Bishop Hubert (Victor) Whitsey. The allegations date from 1974 onwards when he was Bishop of Chester and while he was retired and living in Blackburn diocese. Bishop Whitsey also served as Bishop of Hertford in St Albans Diocese from 1971 to 1974.

Anyone affected by this news should call the CCPAS helpline on 0303 003 11 11 who can offer help and signpost to church-related support and information or alternatively call the NSPCC 0808 800 5000. Anyone with further information on the case should go direct to the police on 101.

Any allegations or information will be listened to and treated seriously. Alternatively, if you have any information or concerns please call Jez Hirst, Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser on 01727 818107 Mob: 07867 350886 or safeguarding@stalbans.anglican.org Jane, Jeni, Andrew or John are always willing to listen or to pray with people who are affected by this news.

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.

Swaziland fundraising

I will be running a stall in the Market Place on Saturday 11 November to raise money for my trip to Swaziland next summer with the Explorer Scouts. We will be finishing building a community youth centre in a small village and helping with a soup kitchen. On the stall I will be selling jams, chutney, cakes and books and toys. Please come and have a look.

Ellie Stone

The Partition History Project – 9 am – 5 pm, November 13-23

St Mary's Church will be screening off the most beautiful part of the church to symbolize the terrible loss of life, of mutual trust, and of access to holy sites at the time of the Partition of India. It will be freely open to all, of all faiths and none, to visit and light a candle. For further details, email Canon Michael Roden hitchinparishoffice@btinternet.com

“Child of the Divide” – a play by Sudha Bhuchar.

“A remarkable story of family, identity and belonging, marking the 70th anniversary of the partition of India.” Broadway Theatre, Letchworth – 7.30 pm Tuesday 14th November. Tickets £15 via the Theatre website, or contact Austin Smith for tickets at £6!! More details on the poster on the noticeboard outside the hall.

Looking for “Somewhere to Go” This Christmas?

Nowhere to go this Christmas? then you are welcome to join us... for Christmas food, festive fun and good company at Walsworth Road, Baptist Church, Walsworth Rd, Hitchin, SG4 9SP! Join us on Christmas day 11am-5pm, Boxing day 10am-4pm, and New Year's Day 10am-4pm. For booking, donations or volunteering contact Leigh 07931 – 833838 or Donald 07737451105, email bof_biblewaychurch@yahoo.co.uk

Save your cereal boxes please!

I am in need of "cereal box" card to make stars for Messy Church in November. Please bring to church over the next two weeks. With grateful thanks Ann Wakefield.

Lister Hospital Help

Volunteers are needed to help move patients from wards to the chapel. Sunday mornings 9am-12-00noon. If interested in helping contact John Richardson-johnrichardson891@btinternet.com

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.