

⊕ St Mark's Church Hitchin ⊕

A member of Churches Together in Hitchin

3 December 2017 (web) First Sunday of Advent

Services and events for today

8am	Holy Communion (p.29 in folder)
10am	Holy Communion (p.15 in folder)
4pm	Advent Carol Service
8pm	Sunday Social at the Angels

Readings for today

Isaiah 64. 1-9
1 Corinthians 1. 3-9
Mark 13. 24-37

St Mark's extends a warm welcome to newcomers

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



@stmarkshitchin



For an insight into the life of our Vicar see: "A Day in the Life of a Vicar" at

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

Hymns for 10.00am

24	Hark, a thrilling voice is sounding
31	Come, thou long-expected Jesus
196	Songs of praise the angels sang
SF 19	Gabriel's message
28	Lo, he comes with clouds descending

Diary for week beginning Monday 4 December

Mon 4 Dec	2pm	Carols at Westbourne Residential Home
	5pm	Rainbow Carol Service at St Mark's
Tues 5 Dec	10-11.30am	York Road Nursery visiting St Mark's
Wed 6 Dec	9am	Morning Prayer
	10-10.30am	York Road Nursery visiting St Mark's
	1.45-2.30pm	York Road Nursery visiting St Mark's
	7 – 8.30pm	Choir Practice
Thur 7 Dec	10am	Communion at Westmill Lawns
	3.15pm	Messy St Mark's at Oughton Primary School

Services for Sunday, 10 December

8am	Holy Communion
10am	Holy communion - At this service we will be celebrating Revd Austin Smith's 50 years of priesthood.
4.30pm	CTH Carols in the Market Place

From the Churches Together in Hitchin prayer Link we pray for:

We hold Hitchin Christian Centre in our prayers today as they start their Christmas celebrations by again welcoming the King's Chamber Orchestra to their services. We also hold in our prayers Tilehouse Street Baptist Church as they prepare for their Pull a Cracker event next Saturday. We pray that young people and their carers will better understand the Christmas story and God's Love for the world.

From the St Mark's Cycle of Prayer, we pray for: St Mary's Church Hitchin, for the Foodbank, and for Christians against Poverty debt help. We also pray for the residents of Wellingham Avenue, Bowyers Close and Castle Court.

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

Notices

Carol services in our community

Over the next two weeks we will be visiting three venues conducting carol services. If anyone would like to join us and to help with the singing it would be lovely to have your company. Carol services will be held in Westbourne residential Home on Mon 4th Dec at 2pm, in Nightingale Day Centre on Wed 13th Dec at 2pm, and at Westmill Lawns on Fri 15th Dec at 2.30pm.

Messy St Mark's

We will be holding our second Messy St Mark's for the families at Oughton Primary School on Thurs 7th Dec. Please pray for the team running the craft activities and the celebration time, and for all the families who will, hopefully (!), attend.

Notice for Pathfinders and Travellers

The Pathfinders and Travellers will be narrating and directing our Scratch Nativity on Sunday 17th December. They will be preparing on Sunday 10th December during the 10am service and at a run-through on Friday 15th December at 5pm in church. If you are unable to join us at either of these times but would still like to be involved please can you let us (Spencer, Mark, Rachel or Pippa) know so that we can plan around this.

The 21st Hitchin Christmas Tree Festival Sat 9th and Sun 10th December, at Holy Saviour Church, Radcliffe Rd; 12noon to 6pm, admission £4.00, accompanied children free. Further information is available at the back of church. St Mark's has entered a tree entitled "The Key to The Kingdom" which you can see at the festival. *Joy, Michael and Judy*

Craft Sale – handmade Christmas gifts

Jeannette and her group of crafters have been making items to sell to raise funds for Motor Neurone Disease Association. Items will be for sale between now and Christmas at her home; every Thursday from 10am til 12pm. There may even be some company and a coffee there for you as well!

Carols in the Market Place

Churches Together in Hitchin is leading Carols in the Market Place at 4.30 pm next Sunday 10th December: note the slightly later time than in previous years as it will be preceded by a Lantern Parade organised by the Rotary Club, leaving St Mary's at 4.00 pm. The carols will be introduced by John Maguire, the newly-appointed Chair of Churches Together in Hitchin, and the Rev Jane Robson, and will be accompanied by Hitchin Band. All are welcome - bring friends and neighbours with you! Further details from John Richardson 07505 426876.

Gift from Hitchin Christian Centre

We have received a very generous gift of £1000 from the congregation of Hitchin Christian Centre. The District Church Council have agreed to ring fence this money for outreach activities e.g. prayer cards, Messy St Mark's etc. We are very grateful for the generosity of our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Advent and Christmas Services

Sunday 3rd Dec	4.00pm	Advent Carol Service
Sunday 10th Dec	4.30pm	CTH Carols in the Market Place
Sunday 17th Dec	10am 10.45am 6.30pm	Holy Communion (said) Sunday School Nativity with carols <i>Coffee will be served after the 10.45am service</i> Service of Lessons and Carols
Christmas Eve	10am 2pm 4pm 11.30pm	No 8.00am Service Holy Communion (said) Family Crib Service Family Crib Service Midnight Communion Service
Christmas Day	10am	Family Communion
Sunday 31st Dec	8.00am 10.00am	Holy Communion Family Communion

Diocesan Job Vacancies

The Diocese is advertising for a full-time Administrator and part-time Training Co-ordinator to join the Fresh Expressions team at Holywell Lodge, and there is a Job Vacancy for a Finance Manager to work at the Diocesan Office at Holywell Lodge. For further details please see the adverts on the notice board at the back of church or see the information on line at www.stalbans.anglican.org/diocese/other-vacancies

In Memorium

If anyone would like to make a donation In memory of a loved one at Christmas, please pass you donation to us with the name of the person you wish to remember. *Diane Porter and Joy Hukin*

Millers Café

Millers Café is for those who have been 'through the mill'. It is an opportunity to drop in, to share a coffee and to be offered a listening ear for those who've experienced life changing conditions either themselves or through a loved one. Millers Café will be open on the 1st Monday of each month between 2-4pm and the 3rd Wednesday of each month between 10am-12pm at Walsworth Road Baptist Church, beginning on 17th January. This is an ecumenical endeavour and we are hoping to gather two small teams of volunteers to be tea and coffee makers, and/or listeners to be alongside people. If you would be interested in volunteering please contact either Val Chamberlain (01462 458827 or valchamberlain2000@yahoo.co.uk) if you would like to help on Mondays, or Mary Hollingdale (07759195487 or memholl@aol.com) if you would like to help on Wednesdays.

Ecclesiastical Insurance

Ecclesiastical Insurance is the company which insures the church. It is marking its 130th anniversary by offering to donate £130 to your chosen church for each new home insurance policy which an individual takes out before 31st Oct 2018. A poster giving details is displayed on the notice board at the back of church. Details can be found at www.ecclesiastical.com/Trust130 or you can call them on 0800 783 0130 and quote TRUST130.

Nativity 17th December

This year we are trying something new. We will be doing a scratch nativity in the 10:45 service. Everyone who would like to can come dressed as any character from the nativity (your choices are Angel, Mary, Joseph, Star, Shepherd, Wise man, Donkey, other animals), and we can all join in with the story. The pathfinders will be narrating the story for us and the travellers will be helping to guide us all.

Praying for Phase

The Phase team (Hitchin Schools' Christian Workers) would appreciate your prayers for the work they're doing in our secondary schools in these last weeks of term and also for their 'Christmas Unwrapped' workshops in 4 primary schools. Do pick up their December Prayer Guide from the Mission table for more information and for suggestions for prayer for each day of the month. If you'd like to pray with other people, you'd be very welcome to join the group of supporters from various churches in Hitchin which meets once a month with a member of the Phase team to learn about and pray for their work. Their next meeting is on Tuesday 12 December from 4-5pm at 27 Wymondley Road.

Christmas Day Lunch at St Mark's

After last year's successful Christmas Lunch, we would like to invite you to join us from 1-4pm on Christmas Day. Adults are asked to contribute £8 and children £3 toward the meal; there is a sign-up list at the back of church for names and contact details, so we know how many to cater for. If you have any questions please call Joy .

Two appeals for help this Christmas from the Pastoral Group:

Christmas Hampers for North Herts Sanctuary - Donations of Christmas Goodies would be gratefully received. Particularly festive items: Tins of fruit, mince pies, Christmas cakes, crackers, sweets, chocolates, fancy biscuits, Christmas puddings etc. (Please NO ALCOHOL of any description!). Also, some Crisps/Peanuts/Nibbles and Fizzy drinks – Coke, Pepsi etc.

Please put your donation in the box at the back of church.

Gifts for the lonely and/or homeless – the Built on Faith Bibleway Church at Walsworth Road Baptist Church, as part of the “Somewhere to go at Christmas” initiative, are collecting gifts for the homeless/lonely who will be visiting the above Church over the Christmas/New Year period. Visitors include ladies from mid-twenties up to 70yrs old, and gentlemen from 30 years upwards. Suggested gifts include toiletries for either gender; please wrap your gift “A gift from your friends at St Mark's Church” and place your wrapped donation in the box provided at the back of church.

Many thanks. Pastoral Group.

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.

EVENTS If you would like to promote an event at St Mark's on our Website, please send your poster/flier to events@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk