

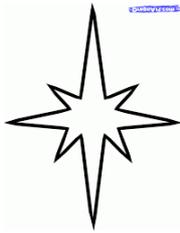


**St Mark's Church Hitchin**

**22<sup>nd</sup> December 2019**  
**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent**

**Services & events for today**

8am Said Holy Communion  
10am Short Holy Communion  
10.45am Scratch Nativity & Carols  
6.30pm Service of Lessons &  
Carols



**Readings**

Isaiah 7. 10-16  
Romans 1. 1-7  
Luke 1. 67-79

**Hymns**

**A&M 484**

Long ago, prophets knew  
**JP 19** The Angel Gabriel from  
heaven came

**Prayers**

**From the Churches Together in Hitchin Prayer Link:** We pray for the huge number of Christmas related events and services taking place this weekend and during this Christmas season, organised by the member churches of **Churches Together in Hitchin.**

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

Tilehouse Street, Walsworth Road and Wymondley Baptist Churches. We also pray for the organisations providing meals on wheels and other support services for our older and vulnerable residents. We pray this week for residents of Strathmore Avenue, Whitehurst Avenue and Wilton Road.

**NOTICES**

**Help us find the new Vicar!**

On Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> January, at 7.45pm in the church, Bishop Michael will lead a discussion about who we are as a church community, and what sort of qualities we are looking for in a new Vicar. We will use the results in the job description which is advertised, so this is a really important evening and we need as many of you to be there as possible. More info in the New Year, but please put this date in your diary now, and come along and have your say! Louise and Joy (Churchwardens)

**Christmas**

As we begin our Christmas celebrations this weekend, thank you in advance for everyone who is giving of their time in so many ways to aid our celebrations as we give thanks for Christ's birth together. Whether you are with us this Christmas or going away, we wish everyone a very happy and joyful celebration.

**Our Scratch Nativity** will be today Sunday, 22<sup>nd</sup> December at 10.45. This will be narrated by our Pathfinder group. We would like to invite any children who would like to join in to come dressed up as Mary, Joseph, or an Angel, Shepherd or Wise Man. They don't need to learn any lines or rehearse but can just follow the instructions of the Pathfinders on the day. We can't wait!

*Pippa Lally & Rachel Drury.*

**Quiz Night**

A huge thank you to Michael Orton for organising our recent quiz night, and to everyone who came and supported. It was a great evening and raised £354.50

**TWO Christmas Appeals**

**Please note today (22<sup>nd</sup>) is the last day for donations.**

The collections will be delivered to their destinations later today.

**1. 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, nibbles and fizzy drinks etc. (Please NO ALCOHOL of any description!)

**2. 'Somewhere to go at Christmas' initiative**

Gifts for the homeless/lonely. This year the organisers are collecting items to make up shoeboxes for Males and Females. Suggested items include socks, gloves, hats etc to keep warm; luxury items like sweets, bath bombs, chocolates, perfume candles; and necessities like shower gel, toothpaste, sanitary towels, flannels, creams, shaving foam etc. All unwrapped.

*Many thanks. Pastoral Group.*

**Nowhere to go this Christmas?**

Feed up Warm up are teaming up with "Somewhere to Go" – Join us on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Years Day between 10am-5pm for Christmas food, festive fun and good company, at Our Lady Immaculate and St Andrew Catholic Church.

See poster on the noticeboard for more details. If you are able to help volunteer on any of those days please contact Liz –

[elizabethwills@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:elizabethwills@rcdow.org.uk)

Shifts are for 2 hours starting from 9am until 6pm

### Taize service 26<sup>th</sup> January

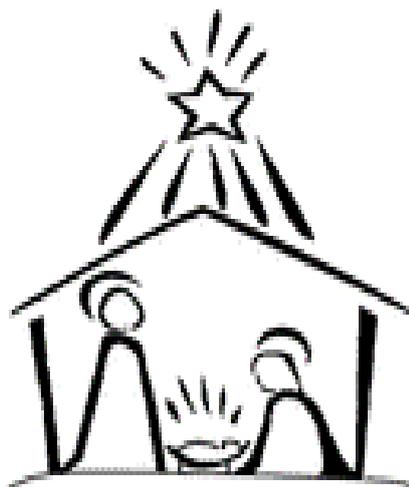
Our Taize service on 26<sup>th</sup> January will be held, exceptionally, at 5pm to allow time for other events taking place that afternoon. It would be lovely to see you at that service, a quiet time of prayer, readings and chants, with a reflection from Jane.

### The vicar is moving on!

It was announced on 1<sup>st</sup> December that Jane has been appointed as the next Archdeacon of St Albans. She is sad to be leaving us, and we are sad to lose her, but we are also delighted for her, and very pleased that her many gifts will be shared more widely. We have been blessed to have Jane, James, Elliot, and Amelie with us for so long, and we pray that God will bless the whole family in their new home, will bless Jane in her new ministry, and hope that they know they will always be welcome here. All this means that Jane will be leaving St Mark's with her last Sunday being 9th February. The "letter" that Jane read out and Louise's response, is on the notice board at the back of church.

God of hope

be with us in our Advent journey  
to the stable and beyond,  
be with us in our meeting  
and in our travelling together,  
be with us in our worship  
and our praying together,  
be with us in our Advent journey  
to the stable and beyond,  
our God of hope.



### Christmas Services

Services to celebrate Christmas this year are:

#### Sunday 22nd Dec

10am Holy Communion  
10.45am Nativity with carols  
6.30pm Service of Lessons  
and Carols

#### Christmas Eve

2pm Family Crib Service  
(calmer version)  
4pm Family Crib Service  
11.30pm Midnight Communion

#### Christmas Day

10am Family Christmas  
Communion

### Church Diary for week of Dec 23rd

#### Tuesday 24

2pm Crib Service (calmer version)  
4pm Crib Service  
11.30pm Midnight Communion

#### Wednesday 25

10am Family Christmas  
Communion

### Services and events for Sunday 29 December

8am Said Holy Communion  
10am Family Communion



### St Mark's extends a warm welcome to newcomers!

Please do join us for a drink and a biscuit at the end of the service.

If you would like to discuss getting involved in the life of St Mark's, please email

[wardens@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk](mailto:wardens@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk)

or call Jane on 01462 434 686

DO PLEASE TAKE THESE  
NOTICES HOME WITH YOU

See our website,  
<http://www.stmarks-hitchin.org.uk>  
for the latest information about  
events and services.

St Mark's church is entirely funded  
from donations and hall hire.

### We receive no external funding.

If you would like to contribute to  
our running costs, please enquire  
about giving by Standing Order, or  
using a Gift Envelope

If you would like to have a notice  
included in the next news sheet, for  
a maximum of two weeks,  
please email

[notices@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk](mailto:notices@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk)

or ring Maggie Mellersh on  
504003

Please send notices by 7pm on the  
preceding Wednesday.

Loving Jesus,

You were born in a stable but  
worshipped by the angels.  
Be with all who are lonely, and  
with all who feel distant from  
celebrations.  
Be for them a living hope that  
lightens their hearts.  
Amen