



St Mark's Church Hitchin
12th January 2020
1st Sunday of
Epiphany

Services & events for today

8am Said Holy Communion
10am Holy Communion
2.30pm Messy St Mark's
planning meeting at the
Vicarage

Children are very welcome to use our creche & children's activities in the hall from the start of the service, & then join us in church for communion. Children are also welcome to stay in the service, & there are toybags under the welcome table & a quiet play area behind the noticeboards.

Readings

Isaiah 42. 1-9
Acts 10.34-43
Matthew 3. 13-17

Hymns (A&M = red hymn book)

A&M 49 O worship the Lord
A&M 27 On Jordan's bank
A&M 121 To the name of our
salvation
JP 215 Seek ye first
SF 17 In Christ alone

Prayers

From the Churches Together in Hitchin Prayer Link: We pray for the annual Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, and reflect on its theme 'They showed us unusual kindness'. We pray especially for the ministerial exchanges taking place in Hitchin.

From the St Mark's Cycle of Prayer, we pray for all those preparing for baptism or confirmation, and our baptism and

bereavement visiting teams. Also we pray for Helping Herts Homeless and those they support. This week we pray for residents of Hine Way and Seebom Close.

NOTICES

9th February Bring & Share Lunch
Sunday 9th Feb will be Jane's last day with us, and to mark the occasion there will be a Family Communion service at 10am and lunch in the hall from 12. Please bring some food to share and help us celebrate with the Mainwaring family.

Help needed When Jane leaves we will need an extra pair of hands at Little Lions. The group meets twice a month on 1st and 3rd Fridays. Ideally we need someone who is able to help set up from 9am, then to chat to parents, grandparents and carers, then help with tidying up. We're usually leaving the hall by 11.30. If you would be able to offer to help either once or twice a month we'd love to hear from you. Daphne Wakefield and Jane.

Eddie Cullum Eddie's funeral will take place on Wednesday 22nd January, 1pm in church. Please hold Ruby, Rachel and all of Eddie's family in your prayers at this time.

Church Lunch The next church lunch will be on 24th January at 12.30pm. If you'd like to come please sign the list on the Welcomers Table at the back of church. £5 per person.

Rotas for February – May have now been issued by email, and hard copies for those who have requested them. If you haven't received yours please let Maggie Mellersh know. There are some spare hard copies on the table.

St Mark's Prayer Cycle 2020

The 2020 edition of the St Mark's Prayer Cycle is now available at the back of the church. Do please take one and use it personally for prayer in any way you find helpful.

Christmas Donations to Herts Homeless and Somewhere to Go

A huge THANKYOU, St Mark's, for your very generous donations to the above appeals. Messages of thanks will appear on the Church Notice board.

A very Peaceful New Year to you all from St Marks Pastoral & Bereavement Groups.

Collections taken at our Christmas services raised £90.50 for Helping Herts Homeless (Carol Service) and £206.72 for the Children's Society (Crib Services). Many thanks for your generosity.

New Testament Greek - a suggestion from John (Richardson)

As you may have noticed, John sometimes uses his knowledge of New Testament Greek (gathered way back in the last century!) for sermon illustrations. One or two have you have suggested that it might be good to know more about this language and John is willing to lead an introductory session with a view to seeing if it could be taken further eg a basic guide to reading the New Testament in its original language. This first session would be about an hour long and would be held at a time that suited enough people. If you are interested, can you let John know - in church, via a phone or text message to 07505 426876, or by email to johnrichardson891@btinternet.com - indicating what sort of time (daytime, evening, Saturday morning, Sunday afternoon) would be best for you.

**Services and events
for Sunday 19 January**

8am Said Holy Communion
10am Family Service & Baptism
11.15am Said Holy Communion
12 noon Standing Committee
6.30pm CTH United Service at Holy Saviour Church

**Church Diary for w/c 13 January
Wed 15th**

9.15am Morning Prayer
2pm Pastoral & Bereavement groups meeting

Thurs 16th

8pm Theological Book Club at 5 Acre Piece

Fri 17th

9.30am Little Lions

Hall bookings w/c 13 January

Mon 13 8.30am-3pm Signing Class

7-8pm Tai Chi

Tues 14 9.30am-12.30pm Jo Jingles

7-9pm NCT

Wed 15 11.30am-12.30pm Tai Chi

5.30-7pm Yoga

Thurs 16 12-2pm Hall cleaning

7-10pm Private booking

Fri 17 9.30-11.15 Little Lions

Sat 18 10am-1pm Private booking

Taize service 26th January

Our Taize service on 26th 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.

Prayer of St Patrick

*Lord be with us this day,
Within us to purify us;
Above us to draw us up;
Beneath us to sustain us;
Before us to lead us;
Behind us to restrain us;
Around us to protect us.*

**Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
18th to 25th January**

The Week is being celebrated all over the world. This year its theme, chosen by the churches of Malta, is 'Unusual Kindness' taken from Acts Chapter 28 which describes how Paul was warmly welcomed after being shipwrecked on Malta.

Here in Hitchin, Churches Together has arranged the following: Exchanges of preachers on **Sundays 19th and 26th January**

A united service in Holy Saviour Church at 6.30pm on Sunday 19th, including a welcome to the Rev Jane Robson of Tilehouse Street Baptist Church as Chair of Churches Together. Jane will be the preacher at this service

Daily prayer gatherings as follows:

Saturday 18th 9.30pm

Praying with Street Angels (meet at Walsworth Rd Baptist)

Monday 20th 7pm

Zeo Church (at Zeo Centre)

Tuesday 21st 7.15pm

Our Lady's Church

Wednesday 22nd 9.15am

St Mark's Church

Thursday 23rd 11am

Tilehouse Street Baptist Church

Friday 24th 12.30pm

Christchurch

Saturday 25th 12noon

St Faith's

Sunday 26th 5pm

Service of prayer and music in the Taize style at St Mark's Church

Members of all churches are welcome at any of the above. If you would like to follow the theme personally, material for reading, reflection and action can be found on

<https://ctbi.org.uk/weekofprayer>

For further details about the Hitchin events, contact John Richardson on 07505 426876



**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

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

or ring Maggie Mellersh on
504003

Please send notices by 7pm on the preceding Wednesday.

**Prayer for peace and safety amid
unrest**

*O God, who would fold both
heaven and earth in a single peace:
let the design of thy great love
lighten upon the waste of our
wraths and sorrows:
and give peace to thy Church,
peace among nations,
peace in our dwellings,
and peace in our hearts:
through thy Son our Saviour Jesus
Christ.
Amen.*

www.churchofengland.org