

**Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> October**  
**18<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity**

**Readings for 11<sup>th</sup> October**

Exodus chapter 32 verses 1-14

Philippians chapter 4 verses 1-9

Matthew chapter 22 verses 1-14

**Prayers:- From Churches Together in Hitchin** Please pray for Janet Graham, Church worker at **Walsworth Road Baptist Church** as she contacts the most vulnerable members of the community. We pray for those who are still fearful of leaving their homes and mixing with others. We give thanks for Kieran Murphy, Director of **PHASE** and the Phase



Board of Trustees, chaired by Jeremy Rackham, as they continue to adapt the way Phase works to accommodate the needs of schools, students and parents. Give them wisdom, guidance and clear direction to plan safely for the future.

**From St Mark's Prayer Cycle** we pray for our members who are housebound, and who are missing visits from the church family and the home communion team. We also pray for all in our community and across the country who are unemployed, or about to lose their jobs due to the coronavirus pandemic. We pray for all who are living in poverty and debt.

**This week we pray for the residents of John Barker Place, Bingen Road and Michael Muir House.**

**Prayer Requests** – Please send any prayer requests for the whole church to pray for to Andrew, who will then pass them on to the group leaders. Do contact your own group to ask for prayer too.

**ONLINE & LIVE CHURCH DIARY** – links and details will be sent on **Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> October**  
**Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> October** – Holy Communion at 10am in St Mark's Church will be led by Rev Elizabeth Bunker.

There will be a Service of the Word available on Youtube from Sunday morning for those unable to get to church this week.

**Monday 12<sup>th</sup> October** – Morning Prayer Reading and reflection with John on Youtube

**Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> October** – Morning Prayer in St Mark's Church at 9.15am will be led by Andrew. **Online Morning Prayer** led by Tricia will be on Zoom at 9.15am

**Friday 16<sup>th</sup> October** – Morning Prayer Reading and reflection with Andrew on Youtube.

**Next Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> October** will be our All Age & Family service on Zoom at 10am. Our next Communion service in church will be on **25<sup>th</sup> October**. Please let us know if you would like to come by emailing [notices@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk](mailto:notices@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk)

We will let you know what is happening in November next week.

*This week our friends without computers will receive a hard copy of the reading and reflection given by Andrew Parr on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> October.*

## CHURCH & COMMUNITY NEWS & UPDATES

### **Hitchin Team Parish Zoom Bible Study – Countdown to Christmas with John’s Gospel**

Join others in the Hitchin Parish for this series starting on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> October, 2-3pm. This will be led by Revs Chris Bunce, Melanie Crowley and Ian Todd, and they are keen to welcome those who are yet to return to Church and may appreciate marking the countdown to Christmas at home. For more details and to register your interest email the Parish office [hitchinparishoffice@gmail.com](mailto:hitchinparishoffice@gmail.com)



**Bishops Harvest Appeal** – This year it is ‘Creating a Buzz in Nepal.’ Creating opportunity – through bee keeping – for Nepalese people to re-build their lives, following the devastation caused by massive earthquakes. Your donations can be sent by BACS to St Albans Diocesan Board of Finance  
Bank account. 20776041  
Sort Code. 20-05-03  
Payment Reference. NEPAL4100101

**Annual Parish Meeting** You are warmly invited to the Annual Parish Meeting, at a social distance in St Mary's on 14 October at 7pm. For obvious reasons, the meeting this year is very late, but it needs to take place to ratify the elections at the annual meetings of each church, also to approve the 2019 consolidated accounts for the parish. It will be a short meeting. All the papers (agenda, accounts, reports from all the churches in the team) are being circulated by email. There will be one set of papers in each church. I hope you will be able to attend.  
Sylvia Burns, PCC Secretary

### **Hitchin Forum’s Big Autumn Clean up – 18<sup>th</sup> October**

The Autumn Clean-up will (all being well) take place on Sunday October 18<sup>th</sup> 2020. Due to the coronavirus, arrangements will be somewhat different this year to what they have been in the past. If you would like to organise a team of up to 6 people (including yourself) please register by **10<sup>th</sup> October** by emailing [hflitterpick@gmail.com](mailto:hflitterpick@gmail.com)  
The times can be arranged to fit around our Zoom All Age Service, but please email to register and arrange a convenient time.

### **Hitchin Food Rescue Hub**

The Food Rescue Hub, which had to be suspended at the beginning of lockdown, is now up and running again. It takes place at The Half Moon Pub in Queen Street Hitchin every Thursday morning from 9.30 to 11.00. The usual restrictions - masks, distancing etc - will be

in place and there won't be refreshments as before. But surplus food from supermarkets is being collected again and will be available. All are welcome to go along.

### **Safeguarding – a message from Bishop Alan, Bishop of St Albans.**

As you may have seen in the media this week the 154 page [Independent Report into Child Sex Abuse](#) in the Church of England has now been published.

The independent safeguarding audit of our own diocese published in 2018 noted that we take a firm line when difficult decisions are to be made, that there is a “positive culture around safeguarding,” and that “the Diocese is not defensive about its practice.”

We continue to strive to improve our safeguarding practice. We accept that in an imperfect world we will not always get it all right and that there will always be room for improvement. Offering a safe welcome to all and caring for survivors is, for us, indivisible from offering our message of Christian hope and love to those who come to church.

### **Safe Spaces**

To serve survivors, [Safe Spaces](#) has launched this week. Run by Victim Support, a National Charity, for the Anglican and Roman Catholic Churches in England and Wales, it is a free and independent support service, providing a confidential, personal and safe space for anyone who has been abused through their relationship with either the Church of England, Church in Wales or the Catholic Church of England and Wales.



### **Beach hut finale**

Well dear friends all the goodies for Beach Hut interior decoration arrived from my friend Di in Devon. They are wonderful, surpassing all my hopes and expectations, the girl done good !!! A wooden Sea Gull and Lighthouse complete with lights, beach hut signs, bunting featuring ice creams, flip flops, buckets and spades, boats and star fish etc. Flags for the top of your sand castles and blue fishing net complete with shells to hang from the ceiling and finally a model of a very buxom woman in a blue and white striped swim suit and floral bathing cap who very unnervingly very closely resembles me!!!! Paint work and full décor will be finished very soon. The bewildered Husband has yet to grasp the point of this ridiculousness and now realises that it is not going to be his bolt hole/naughty house and so is currently attempting to clear a space in the tool shed for a seat and thinking about installing a window in it. Here's hoping I can invite you all to a beach party next Summer for which I will have to build a sand pit and obtain some deckchairs yippee can't wait Joy xx

*Please let us know what you would like to see in the notices, and send in any ideas, messages, photographs, poems or prayers (not too long please!)*

*If you would like to have a notice included please email  
[notices@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk](mailto:notices@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk)*

*Please send notices by 7pm on the preceding Wednesday.*