

Sunday 17th January 2021
Third Sunday of Epiphany

Readings for 17th January

1 Samuel chapter 3 verses 1-10
Revelation chapter 5 verses 1-14
John chapter 1 verse 43-end



From Churches Together in Hitchin:- We pray that we can all feel part of The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity being celebrated world-wide from the 18th to the 25th January with the theme of 'Abiding in Christ'. We pray that the resources on the Churches Together in Britain and Ireland website may be widely used and that any gatherings for prayer and worship arranged by Churches Together in Hitchin may be a blessing to us in our different churches.

From St Mark's Prayer Cycle:- This week we pray for the clergy in the Hitchin and St Paul's Walden team ministry. We also pray for Citizens' Advice and the Black Squirrel Credit Union.
This week we pray for the residents of Symonds Road and Chestnut Court

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

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY - Churches Together in Hitchin

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is **Monday 18th to Monday 25th January**, and to mark the Week in these unusual times, Churches Together is holding a short time of prayer on Zoom each day at 6.00 pm. These will be led by ministers and members of different churches and will follow the theme for the Week - *Abiding in Christ*, based on John 15:1-17. All are welcome to join the prayer time on any or all of the days.

Details of how to join will be sent out on Saturday with the links for services and coffee.

Monday 18th will be led by St Mark's - Gail, Hannah and Imogen, with John Richardson

Tuesday 19th – Tilehouse Street Baptist Church

Wednesday 20th – Christchurch

Thursday 21st – Zeo Church

Friday 22nd Walsworth Road Baptist Church

Saturday 23rd – The Hub Church

Sunday 24th – Our Lady's

Monday 25th – St Mark's, Nick Smith

If you would like to follow the theme personally, whether or not you share in the prayers, go to [Resources for Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2021 \(ctbi.org.uk\)](https://resourcesforweekofprayerforchristianunity2021.ctbi.org.uk)

I have lit a candle, Lord,
and in the stillness
within its flame
I glimpse your light.
I have lit a candle, Lord,
and in the stillness
within its warmth
I sense your love.
I have lit a candle, Lord,
and in the stillness
of this moment
I bring my prayer



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ONLINE CHURCH DIARY – links will be sent on Saturday morning.

Sunday 17th January – our All Age Service will be on Zoom at 10am. On Youtube there will also be a Service of the Word with remembrance of the Last Supper.

Monday 18th January - Morning Prayer Reading & reflection with John on Youtube.

Wednesday 20th January – Online Morning Prayer on Zoom at 9.15am.

Friday 22nd January – Morning Prayer Reading & reflection with Andrew on Youtube.

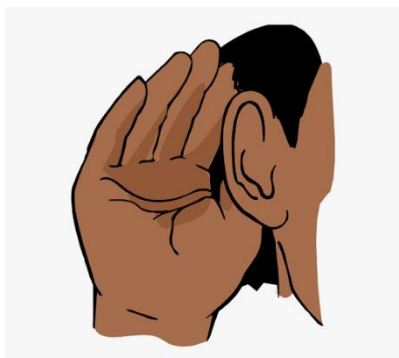
Next Sunday 24th January there will be a **Communion Service on Zoom at 10am.**

This will also be recorded for Youtube.

This week our friends without computers will receive a copy of the reflection from John Richardson given on Monday 11th January.

CHURCH & COMMUNITY NEWS

Hitchin Team Bible Study on Zoom - Join us as we dig into St Paul's fascinating letter to the Ephesians. It started last week, but people are very, very welcome to join from this week! This week the study is 2-3pm on Thursday. Then 2-3pm on the following: Tues 26th, Weds 3rd, Thurs 11th, Tues 16th. See here for details and Zoom link.



Is God calling you? Do you wonder from time to time where God is calling you next? If so, please consider coming on the 'Seeking the Way' course (3 x 3 hour Saturday morning sessions) which has moved online and takes place in February and March this year. Booking closes on 30th January. You can find testimonials from recent Seeking the Way delegates, and a short video, on the diocesan website.

<https://www.stalbans.anglican.org/ministry/events-and-courses/> Full details and help are available from Andrew.

Contact via admin@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk

St Mark's Prayer cycle 2021 we have prepared an annual Prayer Cycle for some years, which enables us to pray regularly for a variety of people and organisations over a month. Usually this is available as a booklet in church, but we can't do it in the same way this year so are sending it out electronically, as an attachment. We hope that it will continue to be appreciated, and if anyone would like a hard copy please let Maggie know and she will get one to you.

Zoom church coffee hosts needed – do you have a Zoom account, and would you be willing to host an after-service coffee occasionally? Contact Maggie for more details.

Church Directory - are there people that you used to see on Sunday but haven't spoken to over lock-down? Why not call or email them? We are currently refreshing our directory, and everyone who has agreed that others in the congregation may see their contact details is in it. We used to give it out in hard copy, and that is still available for those who prefer it that way, but you can also access it on a special (GDPR-compliant!) app called MyChurchsuite - just contact Maggie for either a hard copy or a MyCS invite. The directory includes photos, some of which are rather old now, so if you would like to update yours, you can do it yourself via MyCS, or just email a photo to Maggie.

More Donkey work !!

I know I have a slightly weird view of life, well it must run in the family genes as my Brother seems to be similarly afflicted. You could see what I mean if you ever get to visit our pub The Queens Head in Amptill. Recently a random conversation with some of his close friends resulted in him deciding he needed to have a Donkey. No problem housing or should I say stabling it as his Daughter has horses at a nearby yard. The "Want to buy a Donkey" site showed several in their area and one called "Tarmac " took his fancy. He went to

visit “Tarmac” but he turned out to be an entire Stallion who is very active, if you get my drift!! and the stables said NO as they didn’t relish the thought of loads of baby Mules appearing next year. Brother, also a Richard, wanted to take the Donkey shopping to the local Waitrose and load up his shopping on saddle bags whilst wearing a Sombrero and carrying a carrot on a stick!!!! I think we both need help.

PS the Donkey could be very much in demand for working alongside Duncan [see last week’s notices!] at Easter and Christmas celebrations. Watch this space. Joy xx



*If you would like to have a notice included please email
notices@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk
Please send notices by 7pm on the preceding Wednesday.*