

Sunday 7th February 2021
2nd Sunday before Lent

Readings for 7th February

Proverbs chapter 8 verses 1, 22-31

Colossians chapter 1 verses 15-20

John chapter 1 verses 1-14

PRAYERS



From Churches Together in Hitchin:-

- **Walsworth Road Baptist Church** ask for prayer as they seek to set up a Renew Wellbeing space. We pray that this can be effective initially via Zoom and later within their church premises.
- **Tilehouse Street Baptist Church** deacons and minister ask for prayer as they meet on the next two Saturdays in order to reflect and pray seeking the Lord's guidance and will for their church's future.
- **Our Lady's Roman Catholic Church** ask for our prayers as they start their 2021 confirmation programme. We focus our prayers on the young people taking part and pray that through the power of the Holy Spirit they may discern God's will for their lives.
- Pray for the **Churches Together in Hitchin Council** taking place by Zoom tomorrow evening. We pray that the meeting may come to good decisions about how best to organise its activities in the coming months.
- **Wymondley Baptist Church** are holding a Quiz next Saturday via Zoom. Please pray that friends and members of the Groups who were using their Hall before the pandemic struck will join in, so that we can connections can be maintained in these difficult times for any social activities.

From St Mark's Prayer Cycle:- We pray for St Faith's Church, their clergy and congregation. We also pray for the Garden House Hospice, Lavender Fields Cheshire Home and Stagenhoe Sue Ryder Home.

This week please pray for the residents of Beaumont Close and Nutleigh Grove.

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.



6pm Prayers – The Archbishops of Canterbury and York are encouraging everyone to join in prayer at 6pm throughout the month of February. The Litterick family will be leading us in a short period of prayer on Zoom (the link will be sent out again on Saturday). We hope you can join us for some or all of these sessions but if you are unable to please do try and pause at 6pm to join the nation for a few moments of prayer.

Here is the link to the resources and suggested prayers from the Church of England.

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

Sunday 7th February – our **All-Age Service** will be at 10am on Zoom, will be led by Rachel and Nick. There will also be a **Service of the Word** available on Youtube.

Monday 8th February - Morning Prayer Reading & reflection with John on Youtube

Wednesday 10th February – Online Morning Prayer on Zoom at 9.15am.

Friday 12th February – Morning Prayer Reading & reflection with Nick on Youtube.

Next Sunday 14th February there will be a service of Holy Communion livestreamed on Zoom from the church, and also uploaded to Youtube.

This week our friends without computers will receive a copy of the sermon which Andrew gave last Sunday, based on the Presentation of Christ in the Temple.

CHURCH & COMMUNITY NEWS

Update from Beavers

On Saturday, instead of their usual sleepover in Christchurch, the beavers from all over Hitchin had an epic 7 hour Zoom session (!) doing pirate themed crafts and games and finishing with a bedtime story. They then slept in their own pirate forts that they created at home. A lot of fun was had by all and the beavers stamina on Zoom was remarkable! Here are some pictures of George, Lyra and Imogen with their crafts and in their pirate sleeping quarters.

St Mark's has Talent.... Joy is planning a Zoom entertainment evening, for all ages from St Mark's. Could you sing, play an instrument, tell some jokes, read a poem (or 2), do magic tricks, recite the 7 times table, show a painting or drawing, perform a dance, get your pets to do a trick, whatever else comes to mind – maximum 5-minute slot per person/family. If you'd be interested in taking part please contact Joy via admin@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk Date & time TBC once we know what interest there is.

Zoom Home Groups For Lent - Home Groups (also often called fellowship groups, small groups, or connect groups!) are a great way to deepen our faith and build supportive relationships with people in church. St Mark's already has a couple of groups that run, but many people aren't in a group at the moment. We'd like to run some groups over Zoom for Lent, with a potential view to establishing one or two extra Home Groups after this. The initial Lent Groups will meet weekly and involve discussing a Bible study guide called '*Living Faith: invitations from the cross*' (a book that the Lent Groups were due to study last year before lockdown struck). One group led by Helen Richardson will be on Mondays at 2pm, and another by Nick on Thursday evening (time TBC). So if you think you might be interested in a Lent Group, please get in touch with Nick asap: vicar@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk or 01462 434686.



Sorry no swimming

Friends of mine are bemoaning the fact that swimming is currently off the agenda. This particular activity has never ever been on mine. So missing it I am NOT.

I can't even wash my hair and shower at the same time for fear of drowning. I hear

the "Jaws" theme tune in a bowl of deep washing up water and a dripping tap is definitely a form of torture . This fear stems directly from my formative years at the School on the Hill. The swimming pool was outside and unheated. I used to walk, gingerly, down the steps and stand shivering with the water at mid-calf depth then leg it out after a few minutes with my



legs looking like I was wearing a pair of long pale blue socks!!! It was compulsory to get your 25yd swimming certificate asap and it was a competition between the classes in the same year to achieve 100%. I was the last in our class to achieve this so the pressure was on. After loads of tears and a tantrum I took the pool by storm and scooted with one foot on the bottom to get the wretched award for the honor of my classmates. To crown it all the swimming "uniform" was a black costume with skintight yellow swim hats complete with chin strap. This resulted in the whole class lined up at the water's edge resembling an assortment of variously sized Belisha beacons. Just writing this has brought me out in hives.
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.*