

**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> August 2021**  
**11<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity**

**In the notices this week....**

1. Readings & prayers
2. Church diary
3. Art & Craft Fair – Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> August
4. Book launch!
5. Church rotas
6. Benefice Evensongs: ST MARK'S HOSTING THIS WEEK!
7. Open Forum with Bishop Michael – Wed 25<sup>th</sup> August
8. Party in the Square - Sun 12<sup>th</sup> September
9. Bikes & branches - Joy

**Readings for 15<sup>th</sup> August**

Ephesians chapter 5 verses 15-20

John chapter 6 verses 51-58



**PRAYERS:- From Churches Together in Hitchin -**

**PHASE** ask for prayer for all those students receiving A-Level & GCSE results this month. May they find clarity in decisions about their next steps. **Our Lady's Roman Catholic Church** ask that we pray for the many children being baptised in that church over the coming three months.

**From St Mark's Prayer Cycle:-** This week we pray for the

bishops, clergy and staff of the Diocese of St Albans. We also pray for the Lister Hospital, its staff, patients, chaplains and Christian visitors.

**This week please pray for the residents of Westbury Close, Friday Furlong & Lower Innings**

**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.

**CHURCH DIARY** - links for online services will be sent by email on Saturday morning.

**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> August** – 10am All Age Service outside, or in church. *Rumour has it there may be some breadmaking involved...*

**11.15am Simple Communion** in church. **Service of the Word** on Youtube. **Coffee** will be served between the services. Please bring your own cup – now there are fewer of us in the kitchen it helps to reduce the amount of washing up!

*NB: No 8am service on 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays – 11.15am service instead.*

**Art & Craft Fair** – 1-5pm in the church hall – see details below.

**Parish Evensong 6.30pm** – **AT ST MARK'S** - preacher Stephen Fielding. All welcome. Refreshments afterwards.

**Monday 16<sup>th</sup> August-** Reading & reflection with Nick on Youtube.

**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> August** – Morning Prayer in church at 9.15am.

Online Morning Prayer on Zoom at 9.15am.

**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> August** – Little Lions 9.30-11 in the church hall.

**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> August** – 8am Holy Communion in church. 10am Holy Communion in church, livestreamed on Zoom and on Youtube later. **Outdoor Sunday School. Coffee** after the service.

**Parish Evensong 6.30pm** – at St Mary’s – preacher Martha Inch. All welcome.

*This week our friends without computers will receive a copy of the reflection given by John on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> August.*

## CHURCH & COMMUNITY NEWS

### ST MARK’S ART & CRAFT FAIR –THIS SUNDAY 1-

**5pm** - Do come along on Sunday afternoon – there will be a wide range of stalls with arts, crafts, vintage collectibles, books and bric-a-brac, from church members, other churches and charities. Refreshments will be available during the afternoon.

**BOOK LAUNCH** – at the Fair you can also buy a hot-off-the-press copy of “**The Joy of Lockdown**” – a selection of Joy’s weekly Church newsletter musings, also illustrated by Joy. They are £5.99 a copy and profits will be split between St Mark’s and Guide Dogs. You can also order directly from Joy via [admin@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk](mailto:admin@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk)



## Art & Craft Fair

Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> August

1-5 PM

ST Marks Church

Lancaster Avenue  
Hitchin SG5 1UR

Refreshments Available During The Afternoon



**Church rotas** – we’re planning to restart our rotas again in September, now that things are slowly returning to more like normal. We will be contacting those of you who used to be on the various rotas pre-Covid, but would very much welcome new volunteers. Areas where we will be in particular need are with **Sunday School, Pathfinders and Travellers; taxi-to-church; welcoming at services; assisting with communion and serving coffees after services.** If you would like to know more about what’s involved, or would be willing to help please let Maggie know and she will put you in contact with the right person.

### Hitchin Benefice Summer Evensongs – Each Sunday in August at 6.30pm

*Everyone is welcome! Wine and nibbles served afterwards!*

When	Where	Preacher
15 <sup>th</sup>	St Mark’s	Stephen Fielding

22<sup>nd</sup>

St Mary's

Martha Inch

29<sup>th</sup>

All Saints, St Paul's Walden

Ian Todd

For more details see [here](#).

### **SAVE THE DATE - OPEN FORUM WEDNESDAY 25 AUGUST 7PM**

***We hope you will be able to join us for an open forum to be held at St Mary's church to think together about the future organisation of the Parish of Hitchin. It will be led by Bishop Michael. All are welcome.***

You will recall that in the wardens' report to the AGM we told you that overall the Parish was able to pay only 75% of its Parish Share in 2020. It seems that the financial position of the Parish is unsustainable, so in 2020 the PCC started a conversation with Bishop Michael to see what can be done to address this.

A related question is the PCC itself. Our Parish has a complex legal structure of a PCC plus four DCC's, one for each church, and it is the DCC level where the real decision-making happens. One thing that has come through clearly in the conversations to date is that the PCC is a layer that is felt to add little, while requiring time and energy that might be better spent in other ways. We need to consider whether we should seek to revitalise the structures we have, or seek to change them.

There are a number of options open to us, and they will be explained at the forum, and the views of all the congregations sought. We hope that will help us to clarify the way forward. The meeting will be held at St Mary's, as it is our largest venue, and will be as COVID-safe as we can make it. It is not possible to provide a Zoom link, so this will be a meeting of the traditional sort, and we hope that as many as possible of you will be able to join us.

**The Party in the Square** is coming soon, **Sunday 12th September** to be precise. Don't forget to come to the **open-air service at 11:30** - no masks required when you are singing! After the service, the party begins. If your church hasn't confirmed what you will be doing as a stall, please let me know as soon as possible. Then we need some more volunteers to help on the BBQ, serve squash, man the inflatables, help at the prayer tent and clear up at the end (3:30). If you can help at all, please contact me - details below. Also, don't forget to bake small cakes and bring them along, so that the team from St.Faith's can give them away. Finally, there is a harvest stall for people to bring their excess produce which will be distributed through Feed Up Warm Up.

And pray for the sun to shine!

Phil Jackson 07842144741 [phil.jackson@zeochurch.com](mailto:phil.jackson@zeochurch.com)



### **Bikes and Branches**

Hello again it's me with a bit more nonsense. This time it is a bit of reminiscing of some tales my Mum used to tell me. This was all inspired when I was taking a friend back from the Lister Hospital last week. We went the lane way home via Graveley back to Hitchin to avoid the huge number of road works and traffic lights, needless to say no work persons in sight!!! My family came from Graveley, on my Mums side and I was born there. Mum told us that on one occasion when she and her Mum and younger sister Muriel were cycling home from Hitchin to Graveley in the middle of the 2<sup>nd</sup> world war when they saw what they thought was an enemy plane flying overhead. My Nanna ie Mums Mum decided that urgent action was required so they all decamped into a wooded thicket and broke off branches which they then held over their heads as they frantically cycled back to Oak House in Graveley. What a strange sight that must have been to whichever plane of whichever side they were on. My Great Grand Mother Ellen Aldridge, used to knit manically during the air raids, which were largely focused on Letchworth. However, in her nervous state there were so many dropped stitches so the next day was spent undoing the previous night's knitting disasters in preparation to start again the next evening. I get the impression that whatever it was she was attempting to knit would possibly have taken some time to complete. Don't you just love these tales? 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.*

