

Sunday 19th September 2021
16th Sunday after Trinity

In the notices this week!

1. Readings & prayers
2. Church diary & hall diary
3. Sunday morning groups for children & young people
4. Harvest Festival – 3rd October
5. Helping Herts Homeless – thank you letter
6. Friday lunches restarting – Fri 24th Sept
7. Cake stall – Saturday 25th Sept
8. Macmillan Cream Tea Afternoon – Sun 26th Sept
9. International Peace Day event – Tue 21st Sept
10. Churches Together Council meeting – Wed 22nd Sept
11. Safeguarding & DBS checks
12. World Day of Prayer service – Fri 1st Oct
13. Request for help with removals
14. Well call me ostentatious!! - Joy

Readings for 19th September

James chapter 3 verse 13 – chapter 4 verse 3, 7-8a

Mark chapter 9 verses 30-37



PRAYERS:- From Churches Together in Hitchin - Pray for the **Churches Together in Hitchin Council** meeting this coming Wednesday, that it may reflect on our shared life and make plans for the future.

From St Mark's Prayer Cycle:- We pray this week especially for St Mark's church, for Nick and our worship leaders, readers and everyone involved in our church family life. We also pray for local doctors and nurses and all working with them in the community.

This week please pray for the residents of Redhill Road and Oughtonhead Lane.

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

Friday 18th September 9.30 – 11am Little Lions in the church hall

Sunday 19th September –10am All-Age Service in church.

11.15am Holy Communion in church, livestreamed on Youtube. **Coffee** between the services. *Please bring your own cups.*

5.00-6.00pm Vaccine Thank you service at St Marys – all welcome.

Monday 20th September - Reading & reflection with Andrew on Youtube.

Tuesday 21st September – 7.30pm APCM in Church House, to approve 2020 accounts.

Wednesday 22nd September – 9.15am Morning Prayer in church.

Thursday 23rd September – 6.30-9.00pm GWNN in the hall.

Friday 24th September – 12.30pm Church lunch – see below

2.00pm – Pastoral & Bereavement group meeting in the hall

Saturday 25th September – 9am – 1pm Church Cake stall in High Street

Sunday 26th September – 8am Holy Communion in church. **10am Holy Communion** in church livestreamed on Youtube. **Sunday School & groups. Coffee** after the service.

HALL DIARY

In case anyone needs to access the church and/or hall or would like to go into the church for some time of private prayer, we will resume putting in the times when the hall is in use each week, and therefore the church will be open.

NB. These are the 'outside' hirers – all church related events are listed above.

Monday 20th – Signing group 8.30am-3pm

Tuesday 21st – Jo Jingles 9.30-12.30: **Rainbows** 5-6pm: **Antenatal Yoga** 7-9pm

Wednesday 22nd – Home Education Hub 11am – 3.30pm: **Yoga** 5.15-7pm

Thursday 23rd – Childminders Support Group 9.30-11.30am: **Postnatal Baby group** 12-1.30pm: **Dorothy Wells Violin Group** 4-5.30pm

Sunday Morning groups for children and young people.

We are really finding our feet again with Sunday School, Pathfinders and Travellers groups – it is a real delight to see our young people in person. Our Sunday School group is very flexible and although we aren't currently able to run a creche, younger children are very welcome to come along with their carer and dip in and out of Sunday School – we always have some toys available and the emphasis is very much on having fun and enjoying being together again.

If you're just thinking about coming back to church with your children, we would love to see you! Your children would be very welcome to join in with the groups, but it's not compulsory and they can stay in the church with you if you prefer. We have reopened the 'Play corner' near the back of church which has soft seating and quiet toys for babies and young children during the service, and we also have toybags available for you to take to your seat.

Thank you to those that have offered to help us on the children and young people's ministry team. To help us continue our vibrant children and young people's ministry, **we are looking for at least 2 more adults to be either a leader or helper**, of the age group of your choice! It is really important to share the responsibilities of ministry for our younger church members and we aim to minimise the commitment of people on rotas. There is no requirement to have children to be part of the team. If you want to know more about what is involved you can mobile/text me email me via admin@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk or WhatsApp me and I will gladly explain more.

Thank you in advance for your prayerful consideration of whether you can be part of the team.

Marie

This week our friends without computers will receive a copy of the reflection given by John Richardson on 13th September.

CHURCH & COMMUNITY NEWS



HARVEST FESTIVAL SERVICE - Sunday October 3rd 2021

The Pastoral /Bereavement Group will be co-ordinating the distribution of Harvest Gifts following the service and will be delivering small gifts to sick and housebound people and to those who have recently been bereaved.

(Gifts of small parcels of fruit, and small bunches of flowers would be most welcome, please)

As we did in previous years the church will also be supporting 'Helping Herts Homeless', with non-perishable contributions.

We would be grateful for gifts of: - Coffee, Tea, Sugar, Sweet Biscuits, Jars of Jam, Cereals, Tins of Beans,

Cola/Lemonade, Soup, Fruit, Pasta etc. – but please no alcohol.

Thank you for your support.

St Mark's Pastoral/Bereavement Group

HELPING HERTS HOMELESS is one of the charities we support as a church through our mission giving. They have written to thank us for our recent donation. This very informative letter and their autumn 2021 newsletter are both displayed on the noticeboard in church. Both make interesting reading.

FRIDAY LUNCHES – the first lunch of our new session will be on **Friday 24th September** at 12.30pm. This was always a much enjoyed time of friendship, and all are welcome, not just St Mark's members. Feel confident that we will follow any guidelines necessary. Contact Joy via admin@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk to sign up – as previously the cost will be £5 per head.



CAKE STALL – Our next Church Cake stall is in the High Street on **Saturday 25th September 9 – 1ish**. Debbie and Maggie would be very grateful for any home-made cakes and preserves to be brought to the church on Friday 24th September between 3-4pm please, or if you need them collecting contact Debbie or Maggie via admin@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk

MACMILLAN CREAM TEA AFTERNOON – Joy will be holding this annual fundraising event on **Sunday 26th September 2-4pm**

INTERNATIONAL PEACE DAY EVENT - Tilehouse Street Rotary, Inner Wheel and Hitchin Quakers have come together for an event to mark International Peace Day. It will be held in the Peace Garden at Friends Meeting House this **Tuesday 21st September between 10.30**

and 11.30 am and will include two minutes silence at 11.00. All are invited to share in this time of prayer in a lovely setting for peace in our world.

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN HITCHIN COUNCIL - The next CTH Council will be held in Our Lady's Church Hall on **Wednesday 22nd September**. It will begin at 7.30 pm with the annual update from Phase about its work in our schools, then from 8.00 to 9.00 pm we will hear about plans for the future, including new ventures - a Community Larder and 'A Little Theology Group'.

Members of all churches are welcome at what will be our first face-to-face meeting for over a year. We also hope to stream it for those who cannot attend - more details next week. If you would like to know more, contact John Richardson on 07505 426876.

SAFEGUARDING UPDATE: We are now required to update DBS checks every three years, instead of every five. So I will be reviewing the St Mark's records and may approach you over the next few months to bring yours up to date. You don't need to do anything before I contact you, but as always if you have any queries about this or other safeguarding issues, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you. Pauline - Safeguarding Officer St Mark's. *Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. If you have any concerns, please contact Pauline via admin@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk*

LOST PROPERTY? – following a tidy-up of the kitchen there are various dishes, jugs and containers which may belong to someone, on the back table in church. If they are yours please take them! Anything still there after Sunday 26th Sept will be taken to a charity shop!

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER SERVICE Friday 1st October 1.30 pm in St Mary's Church Hitchin.



This is normally held in March but delayed due to Covid restrictions. The theme of the service this year is Build on a Strong Foundation and was prepared by the women of Vanuatu. Historically this service was for women. Now it's for all. Do come and make it a joyous occasion as we lost the one in 2020. Further information Ann Howard 01462 452500.

REQUEST FOR HELP WITH REMOVALS! Churches Together in Hitchin has been asked to publicise a request from a member of a church in Hatfield who would like help in a removal to Highbury Road, Hitchin, at a date in October to be specified. She is willing to pay £10 an hour and she comments: 'So long as they are feeling strong, any gender and any age are welcome to do the job with us!' if you are interested or would like to know more, ring Lorna via admin@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk

WELL CALL ME OSTENTATIOUS!! Hi Folks I can't think why I have not told you before of this little venture of mine into the world of the aristocracy. Well having held back here goes. When it comes to buying gifts for The Husband, the man who, as far as I am concerned, has everything he needs, things become tricky. You know when someone says "oh don't worry" they actually mean "yes please get me something or else !!!" Well this last Christmas I was

completely stumped. Socks, hankies, aftershave, wine, Guinea pigs all not suitable. Well guess what I found. For a very reasonable fee you can purchase a Lordship title online. So that's what I got him (incidentally I got myself a ladyship title while I was at it as I didn't want to be outranked in the household). So, Me and the Husband now have the official titles of Lord and Lady Bennett of Hougoun Manor and are legally entitled to add this to official documents including passports etc and use the title when booking events ie. restaurants etc. We both have a certificate confirming our titles and authenticating them as real and legitimate having the right to use the Crest for letter headings etc. The Hougoun Manor estate is situated on the west side of Coniston Water in Cumbria. The most exciting thing is that we each have 5 square metres of land to call our own and we can visit at any time, take a picnic blanket and supplies and enjoy our ownership of part of this estate. It is all in aid of countryside preservation and maintenance so a good cause eh. I only hope that when we arrive for our visit soon that our plots are relatively near to each other or hopefully adjacent to make the sharing of the picnic basket easy as I don't fancy chucking sandwiches and packets of crisps over great distances. Incidentally I do not require or expect any of you to address me by my newly acquired title unless you feel obligated. Love Lady Joy of Hougoun Manor xx aka little old me!!!



*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.*

