

Sunday 5th September 2021
14th Sunday after Trinity

In the notices this week....

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14. Trip to RHS Wisley with Pirton Church
15. Bad neck - Joy

Readings for 5th September

James chapter 2 verses 1-10, 14-17

Mark chapter 7 verses 24-end



PRAYERS:- From Churches Together in Hitchin - We thank God for all those who are leading worship at **Tilehouse Street**

Baptist Church during their minister's sabbatical and pray a blessing on their preparation and their preaching.

PHASE ask that we pray for children, young people & staff as they return to schools, particularly for those transitioning to a new school.

From St Mark's Prayer Cycle:- This week we pray for Holy Saviour Church, their clergy and congregation. We also pray for people with dementia and our local residential and nursing homes. **This week please pray for the residents of North Place & South Place.**

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.

Friday 3rd September 9.30-11am – **Little Lions** in the church hall.

Friday 3rd September 2pm – **“Thursday Group”** – see below

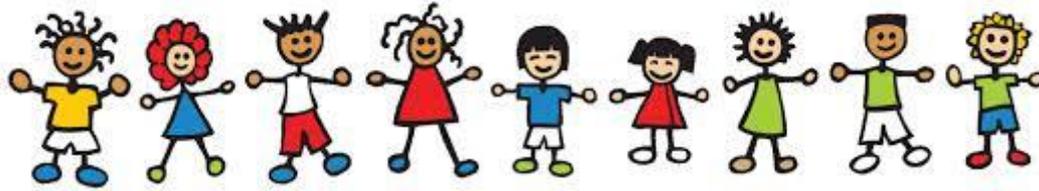
Sunday 5th September – **8am Holy Communion** in church. **10am Holy Communion** in church, livestreamed on Youtube. **Sunday School & children's groups** – see below.

Coffee after the service. *Please bring your own cups!*

Monday 6th September - Reading & reflection with John on Youtube.

Wednesday 8th September – Morning Prayer in church at 9.15am.

Sunday 12th September – 8am Holy Communion in church. 10am Holy Communion in church, led by Archdeacon Jane Mainwaring. **Sunday School & coffee** after the service.



Sunday Morning groups for children and young people.

*As of the 5th September we are delighted to start up our Sunday morning groups again which will include **Sunday School, Pathfinders and Travellers**. As we did prior to the pandemic **Travellers** (Yr6 upwards) and **Pathfinders** (Yr3-5), will meet as groups in the vicarage and **Sunday School** will meet in the hall or outside church (weather dependent). We are unable to offer creche at the moment sadly.*

*To help us continue our vibrant children and young people's ministry, **we are looking for at least 4 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. You may already be helping with one group and fancy a change to a different group, or you may now be in a position to help us when previously you haven't been. 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 contact Marie via admin@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk*

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 sermon given by Andrew on Sunday 29th August.

CHURCH & COMMUNITY NEWS

THANK YOU - Shirley would like to thank everyone at St Mark's for their support and concern following her recent fall, and she is pleased to say that she is recovering now.

THANK YOU TO ST MARK'S - During lockdown I had the joy and privilege of being introduced to Wednesday Morning Prayer on Zoom. My week was transformed by the warm welcome that I, a stranger from Ely Diocese, received from everyone on a Wednesday morning. The feeling of isolation was broken by the chat and laughter after the service and the sympathy and compassion so obviously felt for those members of the congregation who were in trouble. I am so grateful to all those who conducted the service – Tricia, Andrew, John and Nick – and to the backroom people who made it possible. I also joined the 6pm prayers, so wonderfully run by the Litterick family, when we were able to forget ourselves

and prayed for the multitude of people involved in and suffering from the pandemic. Congratulations and thank-you too to the Littericks. Thank you St Mark's congregation – you're wonderful!
Anne H

HITCHIN VACCINE THANK YOU SERVICE - Sunday 19th September

The Rev Charmaine Sabey-Corkindale and friends at St Mary's are holding a Celebration and Thank You Service for the staff and volunteers of the Hitchin Vaccine Rollout. This will be held at St Mary's Church, 5.00 to 6.00 pm on Sunday 19th September. Great hymns and music are promised! All are welcome to join in the appreciation for this significant achievement in our community.

ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS & PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING to approve the 2020 PCC Consolidated Accounts will be held on Tuesday 21st September, 7.30pm in Church House. A copy of the accounts can be viewed on the table at the back of the church – please do not remove from church. Thank you.

CALLING ALL WESTMILL RESIDENTS! A resident steering group (RSG) is being formed for Westmill and John Barker Place (Rev Nick is an honorary member of the group) to work collaboratively with Settle to develop an area which will be great (or even greater!) to live in. If you live in Westmill, care about its community, and have an evening to spare each month to be part of this group and make your voice heard, please email johnbarkerplace@settlegroup.org.uk to let them know you'd like to join (maybe with a few words saying why you would like to help shape the estate and make a difference).

UPDATE ON THURSDAY GROUP - I am pleased to confirm the return of Thursday Group meetings from September. After discussions with members during August it was decided to change the day and time of our meetings. In future we will be meeting in the church hall on the **1st Friday of each month at 2pm** and finishing by 4.30 pm.



Our first meeting will be on **Friday 3rd September**. This will be a social get together with refreshments and a discussion about our group name. All are welcome, for further information contact Val via admin@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk

ST MARK'S MISSION GIVING

*The mission of St Mark's Church is primarily to share the Christian message in all the ways we can in the Westmill/Bearton community. At the same time, we want to express our faith more widely and, for some years, we have used 10% of our income to support mission organisations and charities that further the mission of our church in ways that we can't do ourselves. Each year, we decide on a number of groups that declare the Christian Gospel locally, nationally or internationally and we back them with grants and prayers. Over the last few months, our newsletter has included information about these groups so that we can understand more of what they do and remember them in our prayers. Today, we highlight the work of **Hertfordshire Welcomes Refugees** to which this year we are giving £200.*



The organisation was founded in 2015 with the support of a number of bodies, including Churches Together in Hitchin. It was originally 'Herts Welcomes Syrian Families' but its work has expanded as more people from different countries flee violence and oppression. It seeks to provide personal and practical support to refugees who have been allocated to the county, using a network of befrienders and others who can help with language and understanding British

ways. It does so quietly as it wants to avoid drawing too much attention to the families, but it has had great success as children and their parents have achieved a great deal in education, training and employment.

It has a particular task at the moment to respond to the needs of Afghan refugees - if you would like to see its recent email about how it is doing this, contact John Richardson or see last week's noticesheet. For more about its work in general, go to its website www.hwsf.org.uk



AUTUMN CLEAN – don't forget it's our Church cleaning day next **Saturday 11th September, 10am-3pm**. If you can come along for an hour or two it would be much appreciated – many hands make light work! Coffee and cake will be provided!

CAKE STALL – Our next Church Cake stall is in High Street on **Saturday 25th September, 9 – 1**. Debbie and Maggie would be very grateful for any home-made cakes and preserves, and also if anyone could offer to help on the stall for an hour during the morning to give them a break. Contact Debbie or Maggie via admin@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk



THE CHURCHES TOGETHER PARTY IN THE SQUARE will take place next **Sunday 12th September** in Hitchin Market Place. It begins with an open air service at 11:30 then there will be church stalls, BBQ, inflatables, prayer tent, music and much more until 3:30.

All are welcome - do invite others to join in.

Two requests - If you can, bake some small cakes and bring them along, so that the team from St.Faith's can give them away.

- There is a harvest stall and you are invited to bring any excess produce which will be distributed through Feed Up Warm Up. And of course, prayers for the event will be appreciated. Further details from Phil Jackson 07842 144741 phil.jackson@zeochurch.com

VISIT TO RHS WISLEY, Sat 18th Sept – the Friends of Pirton Church have arranged a coach trip to RHS Wisley on 18th Sept at a cost of £23.00 per person which covers the coach,

entrance to Wisley and a small contribution to Pirton Church. There are still places available, on a first come first served basis. For more details contact Graham via admin@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk

BAD NECK - Hello readers well here is an interesting tale. I have had a niggling bad neck for about 3 weeks, one day better next day a bit worse and so on. Well on Wednesday last week it became v v painful so much so it was unsafe for me to drive as I couldn't turn my head in any direction and I felt sick. Well amongst my group of dear friends at the Delizia café at the top of Sun Street (best coffee in Hitchin) is Alex an Osteopath so I called him and he met me at the café last Thursday. While I was supping my coffee he started to examine my neck which he announced was in an immense seizure and spasm and although he had no available appointments he said he couldn't leave me in such pain, as he could see the agony in my face, he said he had to treat me then and there. So Café owner Rick kindly donated 2 of his "keep the customers cosy grey fleece blankets" and me and Alex ventured up to the first floor of the adjacent Call Centre office to their first landing area. As we ventured up the stairs Alex suggested Rick turn up his background music, which I later found out was to muffle any cries of pain from me. Alex laid me down on the blankets, one for me to lie on and another for my head. Then started his treatment. Gentle rocking of head and neck to left and right then a huge crack as he cranked it sharply to the left and repeated the process on the right side agghhhhh!!!! then he had to go down my spine as several of the highest vertebrae had also become locked. Anyone who chanced to look from the street up the stair case would clearly see my feet sticking out and would probably raised an alarm "body on stair well"!!!! Well instant initial relief but he did say that it would be 2/3 days before I started to feel better as he had had to severely shock my neck structure to free the blockages. It's now day 3 and it is getting there slowly. So the question is how many of you have had emergency treatment in strange places . All I can say is "Thank you Alex" and Rick for the blankets. Love 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.*

