

Sunday 21st November 2021

Sunday next before Advent

PLEASE NOTE – this Sunday our usual services are being swapped around. There is **NO 8am service**. The **Said Communion will be at 10am**, and the **All-Age Service & baptism will be at 11.15am**.

Coffee will be served between the services – please bring your own cup!

In the notices...

1. Readings & prayers
2. Church diary & hall diary
3. Christmas tree festival – Steeple Morden
4. Thank you from Pauline
5. Hitchin Deanery synod meeting – 25th November
6. Real Advent Calendars
7. Stocking filler – the Joy of Lockdown
8. Foodbank collection
9. Wreath making workshop – 4th December
10. Thank you for garden tools
11. Pub versus Parish - Joy

Readings for 21 November

Revelation chapter 1 verses 4b-8

John chapter 18 verses 33 – 37

PRAYERS:- From Churches Together in Hitchin - PHASE ask that we praise God with them



that Phase staff have been back face to face in schools running workshops and mentoring with young people. Please pray for **Zeo Church** as they seek God's next steps for them to plant churches in the coming years.

Our Lady's Roman Catholic Church ask that we pray that the Hitchin Pantry continues to be supported with volunteers, food and money so that together we will enable people in need to help themselves with dignity.

From St Mark's Prayer Cycle:- This week we pray for our Churchwardens and Deputy Wardens, Treasurer, secretaries, welcomers, and taxi rota people. Please also pray for Social Services.

This week please pray for the residents of Burford Way, Carling Place & Rivermead

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

Friday 19th November – 9.30-11am Little Lions

Sunday 21st November – 10am Said Communion in church & livestreamed on Youtube.

11.15am All Age & Baptism service in church.

Monday 22nd November – Reading & reflection with Val Reid on Youtube.

Thursday 25th November - 8pm Deanery Synod meeting at St Mark's.

Friday 26th November 12.30pm Church lunch – contact Joy or sign up on the sheet at the back of church.

Sunday 28th November – 8am Communion in church. 10am Communion in church and livestreamed on Youtube. Children's groups & activities

HALL DIARY

Monday 22nd – Signing Groups 8.30am-3.30pm

Tuesday 23rd –Jo Jingles 9.30am-12.30pm; Rainbows 5-6pm; Antenatal Yoga 7-9pm

Wednesday 24th – Home Education Hub 11am – 4.15pm; Yoga 5.15-7pm

Thursday 25th – Childminders Support group 9.30-11.30am; Dorothy Wells Violin Group 4-5.30pm

Friday 26th – Private booking 7-9pm

This week our friends without computers will receive a copy of the sermon given by Nick on Remembrance Sunday.

CHURCH & COMMUNITY NEWS



Some of you will remember Anne who joined us on Zoom last year for many of our services, as her Church wasn't able to provide online services. She was also a very regular attendee at the 6pm Prayers. She has organised a Christmas Tree festival at her church and would be delighted to see anyone from St Mark's there!

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL ST PETER & ST PAUL CHURCH, STEEPLE MORDEN Friday 19, Sat 20 and Sunday 21

November, 11 am to 4pm. Over 38 trees to see. A Christmas tree service will take place at 4pm on the Sunday. Tea, coffee, cake & preserves stalls will be available. The doors will be open re Covid instructions and no heating on. Wrap up well. The church will be cold but the welcome will be

warm! Road parking only.

THANK YOU FROM PAULINE On behalf of Bob (Parish Lead for safeguarding and Safeguarding Officer St Mary's Hitchin) and myself - we would just like to take this opportunity in thanking everyone who attended the Safeguarding Training session last Saturday at St Mark's. It was a good session with plenty of participation and good feedback. Pauline Safeguarding Officer

HITCHIN DEANERY SYNOD'S next meeting is on 25th November at 8pm in St. Mark's church. It will start with a presentation that is open to all, by Christian Cole, the Diocesan Youth

Missioner. He will review “The Faith in Young People Report” from the Diocese. This should be of interest to anyone involved in youth work.



THE REAL ADVENT CALENDAR –is a fun way for parents, grandparents and Godparents to share the Christmas story. The 2021 calendar comes with a free 24-page Christmas story activity book designed to be used every day in Advent. They’ll be available in church on Sunday 28th November!

They cost £4.50 each - contact Maggie on admin@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk

STOCKING FILLERS FOR CHRISTMAS FOR GOOD CAUSES - Joy’s book “**The Joy of Lockdown**” has limited copies available in aid of St Mark’s and Guide Dogs Association. Shop early for that special unique gift which can be personally signed at no extra cost!!!! Contact Joy

FOODBANK COLLECTION ON 28TH NOVEMBER - Our monthly collection of goods for the Foodbank has resumed. As before, we are aiming for the last Sunday in the month and one of our team of delivery drivers will take the goods to the distribution centre on the Tuesday or Friday following that Sunday. Thank you to everyone who has volunteered to be a delivery driver.

The items currently most needed are: ***sponge puddings and tins of the following: meat; fruit (but not grapefruit or prunes); potatoes; custard; rice pudding.***

If you would like to donate something, do put it in the labelled donations box on the mission table at the back of church. The box will be there this week as well as on 28th.

WREATH MAKING WORKSHOP will be on Saturday 4th December, 2pm in the Church Hall. Cost - £3 per wreath. Places are limited so please contact Val via admin@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk

THANK YOU to everyone who has kindly donated gardening tools to the St Mark’s Garden Club – they are all much appreciated. If anyone would like to join on a Saturday morning for an hour or two please get in touch with Kevin via admin@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk

PUB VERSUS PARISH

Hello all. I was visiting the Pub that my brother Richard and I jointly own recently, "The Queens Head". As usual we had a very interesting and animated conversation. He was



asking how St Mark's was getting on. How new Vicar Nick was settling in and a general update following our slow return from the COVID abyss that we have both experienced. Brother Richard was a server at St Mark's for many years and always delighted in, when distributing the Palm crosses, proudly presenting me with the naffest one he could find, all wonky and askew, but that's another story. I batted the same questions back to him and it soon dawned on us that the life of the church and

that of our pub have many common denominators. A social hub of like-minded people with a focus around friendship, caring, help and counselling. Within lies a real community spirit. All are welcome and greeted warmly and go homeward with a spirit of one sort or the other within them!!! We all rally round in times of need to look after our flock, whether it's to fix a loo seat or be a shoulder to cry on. Maybe this analogy will not sit comfortably with some folks but it exists in neighbourhood relationships, clubs and all manner of social gatherings where friendships are made and love and caring develops and exist. For some the cup is best when it over flows but for others it's best when empty. We are all in this life together and long may we go on and enjoy ourselves and our special friendships and our own choices of where to find them. Yes me again feeling slightly soppy at the moment. 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.*