



Sunday 23rd January 2022

3rd Sunday of Epiphany

Week of Christian Unity

1. Readings & prayers
2. Church diary
3. New sermon series starting...
4. Fairtrade
5. Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
6. Living in Love and Faith course reminder
7. Youth & children's worker vacancy at Christchurch
8. Holocaust Memorial Day event
9. Blast from the past – Joy

Readings for 23rd January

1 Corinthians chapter 12 verses 12-31a

Luke chapter 4 verses 14-21



**CHURCHES
TOGETHER
in HITCHIN**

PRAYERS:- From Churches Together in Hitchin - In this Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, pray for Churches Together in Hitchin as it promotes and supports joint worship and mission in our town.

From St Mark's Prayer Cycle:- Please pray this week for Our Lady's Roman Catholic Church. We also pray for people living with physical disabilities.

This week please pray for the residents of The Mead, Lammas Mead, Shepherds Mead & Bessemer Close.

CHURCH DIARY

Links for online services will be sent by email on Saturday morning.

Friday 21st January – 9.30am Little Lions

Sunday 23rd January – 8am Communion in church. **10am Communion** in church and livestreamed on Youtube. We are pleased to welcome the Rev'd Chris Bunce at St Mark's today.

We are currently required to wear face coverings in church and there will be no refreshments served after the service this week. We hope to resume serving refreshments from next week.

Monday 24th January – Reading & reflection with Andrew on Youtube.

Tuesday 25th January – 7.30pm DCC meeting

Wednesday 26th January – 9.15am Morning Prayer in church

Thursday 27th January – 6.30pm GWNN

Friday 28th January – **NO Church lunch** this month, hopefully in February!

Sunday 30th January – **8am Communion** in church. **10am Communion** in church and livestreamed.

HALL DIARY – *these are the non-church groups hiring the hall.*

Monday 24th – Signing Groups 8.30am-2pm

Tuesday 25th – Jo Jingles 9.30am-12.30pm; Rainbows 5-6pm; Antenatal Yoga 7-9pm

Wednesday 26th – Home Education Hub 11am – 4.15pm; Yoga 5.15-7pm

Thursday 27th – Childminders Support group 9.30-11.30am; Dorothy Wells Violin Group 4-5.30pm

This week our friends without computers will receive a copy of the sermon given by Nick at St Faith's on Sunday 16th January.

CHURCH & COMMUNITY NEWS

NEW SERMON SERIES STARTING SOON...

On the 30th January we are starting a sermon series on the '5 Marks of Mission' (see <https://www.anglicancommunion.org/mission/marks-of-mission.aspx>). This series is going to help us think about God's mission to his world, which each one of us is invited to participate in: it'll help us think about why we exist as Christians - both individually and as a church! It's important for helping us think about where we 'point' ourselves as St Mark's, especially as we move towards emerging from the pandemic. We all have a role to play in this mission (should we choose to accept it!), and I hope that you'll be able to make it to as many of the Sunday services as you can as we think through our mission together.

FAIRTRADE – Maggie will not be holding Traidcraft stalls in church for the time being but



would be happy to order items for anyone and will be placing an order about every 6 weeks. If you would like a list of food items available from Traidcraft please let her know, or see www.traidcraftshop.co.uk. Most stores and supermarkets have a good range of Fairtrade produce these days so please try to buy Fairtrade as part of your weekly shopping – it really does make a difference!

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY – in 2022 will take place between 18th – 25th

January. For material for personal prayers please see this link [Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2022 \(ctbi.org.uk\)](http://www.ctbi.org.uk)

Locally there will be preaching exchanges on 16th and 23rd January:- Nick visited St Faith's on 16th; John Richardson will be preaching at Christchurch and Chris Bunce will be preaching at St Mark's on 23rd.

Everyone is very welcome to join an online time of prayer and worship together on **Tuesday 25th January at 7.30pm** to celebrate the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Hosted by **Churches Together in Hertfordshire**, this event will take place on zoom, see link details below, or see the **attached flyer** for more information. A short service of prayer will be led by the **Rt Revd Michael Beasley, Bishop of Hertford** with music led by harpist, **Alison Eve** and contributions from Christians from across the churches. **Revd Stephen Copson of the**

Central Baptist Association will then lead a time of open prayer together. All are very welcome.



LIVING IN LOVE AND FAITH COURSE is starting on **Thursday 3rd of February**. For more details talk to Tricia, Marie-France, Julian or Nick..

YOUTH & CHILDREN'S WORKER VACANCY – Christchurch in Hitchin are looking for a Youth & Children's worker, salary £22-26,000. They would consider part-time or job share arrangements. To apply, please email admin@christchurchhitchin.org.uk for job description, person profile and application form. Alternatively visit www.christchurchhitchin.org.uk to see a video, read relevant documents and download application form.

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY – 27th January North Herts Council are running an event on 27 January to mark Holocaust Memorial Day, running from 10.30am – 12pm. It will be a virtual event which can be watched live on our YouTube channel and will remain accessible for anyone that wishes to watch it at a later point.

This can be accessed here: [Holocaust Memorial Event - YouTube](#).



BLAST FROM THE PAST Oh my goodness!!! the other day the Husband and me ventured to a previously unvisited local restaurant, a spur of the moment spontaneous lunch. Lovely ambiance, very friendly welcoming staff and generally good vibes, splendid. We positioned ourselves in a comfy area and having been presented with the very tempting menu began to see what other diners were tucking into. The waiter walked passed us to a couple on an adjacent table with plates of what looked like really good stuff. It was only then that I noticed the recipients were my Maths teacher from years gone by and her co-diner. Well I immediately went to pieces and regressed to my childhood. I became verbally incoherent, shaking like a leaf and came out in an instantaneous nervous rash. The Husband was bewildered and concerned and I was unable to explain what was going on!!!! I am sure this lady is a wonderful person and to many other people was a brilliant teacher but she frightened me to death and as a result $2 + 2$ always = 5. I was hopeless at Maths. My dear Dad spent hours trying to help me, bless him, to no avail. The very mention of the word "Maths" induces an iron grid which falls down in front of my eyes and immediately shuts off my brain. Struggling for breath I had to retreat outside and have a severe word with myself along the lines of;- "for goodness sake woman get a grip of yourself" sadly I was unable to take control back. Thankfully, I have now resumed normality but the restaurant is off the list for the near future. xxx

*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.*