



St Mark's Church Hitchin

19<sup>th</sup> January 2020

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of  
Epiphany

Services & events for  
today

8am Holy Communion

10am Family Service & Baptism

11.15am Holy Communion

12noon Standing Committee

6.30pm CTH United Service at  
Holy Saviour

Cake Sale in the hall after the  
Family Service

### Readings

Isaiah 49. 1-7

1 Corinthians 1. 1-9

John 1. 29-42

### Songs (for Family Service)

JP 91 Lord of the dance

JP 139 Jesus' love is very wonderful

JP 44 Father we adore you

JP 191 Our eyes have seen...

JP 258 This little light of mine

### Prayers

**From the Churches Together in Hitchin Prayer Link:** we remember the united service this evening at **Holy Saviour**, which includes the induction of Rev Jane Robson as Chair of Churches Together.

**Zeo Church** ask for prayer that their search for new premises to own is blessed, and the new Alpha Course is successful in bringing people to faith. We pray today for all the young people at **Our Lady's Church** who will be enrolling on their confirmation programme, that the Holy Spirit will guide them on their journeys of faith.

**From the St Mark's Cycle of Prayer, we pray for** our ministry at Westmill Lawns. We also pray for people with visual, hearing and

speech impediments. This week we pray for residents of Bearton Green, Bearton Rd, Bearton Court and Bearton Close.

### NOTICES

**9<sup>th</sup> February Bring & Share Lunch** Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> Feb will be Jane's last day with us, and to mark the occasion there will be a Family Communion service at 10am and lunch in the hall from 12. Please bring some food to share and help us celebrate with the Mainwaring family. Please let Joy Hukin know what food you plan to bring so that she can ensure a good range of offerings! Contact her on 455316 or [joyhukin@btinternet.com](mailto:joyhukin@btinternet.com)

**Vacancy update** Thank you to everyone who came along last week or contributed views for our session with Bishop Michael, it was a lively and positive discussion with a good cross-section of the congregation present.

We are now in the process of drafting the **Parish Profile**, which describes who we are as a church and the sort of person we are seeking to lead us. The DCC will review a first draft on **22 Jan** and the final draft on **3 Feb**, so it is not too late to contribute views - do speak to a member of the DCC if you have not done so already. The Profile will serve as the job advertisement, and be published on **9 February**. If all goes well, we will interview applicants on **23 March**, and if an appointment can be made on that date we would expect a new vicar in **September**. Please do keep praying for those involved in the discernment process, and that the right person will come forward. Some more info on the arrangements for the vacancy is on a separate flyer so you can have contact details to hand.

*Louise & Joy, Churchwardens*

**Cake Sale** Pippa Lally and Mark Drury are both running the London Marathon this year. Pippa is fundraising for Amnesty International and Mark for Children with Cancer.

We will be having 2 joint cake sales after church on 19<sup>th</sup> January and 23<sup>rd</sup> February. There will be a variety of cakes available so please come and buy some delicious treats. The links to our sponsorship pages are below in case you'd like to sponsor us. Thank you, Pippa and Mark.

<https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/Team/MarkDruryandDeanCollins>  
<https://www.justgiving.com/Pippa-Lally-Marathon>

**Help needed** When Jane leaves we will need an extra pair of hands at Little Lions. The group meets twice a month on 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Fridays. Ideally we need someone who is able to help set up from 9am, then to chat to parents, grandparents and carers, then help with tidying up. We're usually leaving the hall by 11.30. If you would be able to offer to help either once or twice a month we'd love to hear from you. Daphne Wakefield and Jane.

**Foodbank** the next collection will be on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> January. Please bring your donations and leave them at the back of church. Long life juice; tinned & dried potatoes; tinned fruit & meat most needed.

**Messy St Mark's resources** - for our next couple of sessions we are in need of: socks to make sock puppets (by 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb); boxes, tubes, cardboard for junk modelling (by 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb) and jam jars (by 15<sup>th</sup> March). Thank you!

**Eddie Cullum** Eddie's funeral will take place on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> January, 1pm in church. Please hold Ruby, Rachel and all of Eddie's family in your prayers at this time.

**Job Club** Starts from Wed 22nd January 10am-12 noon for 8 weeks  
If you or someone you know is looking for work, they can come to Zeo Centre Bedford Rd, Hitchin and get invaluable support to retrain and/or re-join the job market. For more info contact: leigh.smith123@yahoo.co.uk mobile 07931833838

**The next Church Lunch** will be on 24<sup>th</sup> January at 12.30pm. Sign up sheet is on the Welcomers Table at the back of church. £5 per person.

### **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 18th to 25th January**

This year's theme, chosen by the churches of Malta, is 'Unusual Kindness' taken from Acts Chapter 28 which describes how Paul was warmly welcomed after being shipwrecked on Malta. Hitchin Churches Together has arranged the following:

**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> 6.30pm**

United Service at Holy Saviour  
Exchanges of preachers on

**Sundays 19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> January**

Daily prayer gatherings:

**Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> 9.30pm**

Praying with Street Angels (meet at Walsworth Rd Baptist)

**Monday 20<sup>th</sup> 7pm**

Zeo Church (at Zeo Centre)

**Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> 7.15pm**

Our Lady's Church

**Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> 9.15am**

St Mark's Church

**Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> 11am**

Tilehouse Sreet Baptist Church

**Friday 24<sup>th</sup> 12.30pm**

Christchurch

**Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> 12noon**

St Faith's

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> 5pm**

Taizé Service at St Mark's Church

More information can be found <https://ctbi.org.uk/weekofprayer> or contact **John Richardson on 07505 426876**

### **Services and events for Sunday 26 January**

8am Holy Communion

10am Holy Communion

*We welcome Phil Jackson from Zeo Church as our preacher for this service, as part of the ecumenical preaching exchange*

5pm Taizé Service

### **Church Diary for w/c 20 January**

**Wed 22** 9.15am Morning Prayer

1pm Funeral of Eddie Cullum

8.15pm Extraordinary DCC meeting

**Fri 24** 12.30 Church lunch

**Sat 25** 9.45am Exploring

Christianity group at 172 Old Hale Way

### **Hall bookings w/c 20 January**

**Mon 20** 8.30am-3pm Signing Class

7-8pm Tai Chi

**Tues 21** 9.30am-12.30pm Jo Jingles

1-3.30pm Private booking

7-9pm NCT

**Wed 22** 5.30-7pm Yoga

8.15-9.15pm Tai Chi

**Thurs 23** 12-2pm Hall cleaning

6.30pm GWNN

### **New Testament Greek - a suggestion from John (Richardson)**

As you may have noticed, John sometimes uses his knowledge of New Testament Greek (gathered way back in the last century!) for sermon illustrations. One or two of you have suggested that it might be good to know more about this language and John is willing to lead an introductory session with a view to seeing if it could be taken further eg a basic guide to reading the New Testament in its original language. This first session would be about an hour long and would be held at a time that suited enough people. If you are interested, can you let John know - in church, via a phone or text message to 07505 426876, or by email to

[johnrichardson891@btinternet.com](mailto:johnrichardson891@btinternet.com) - indicating what sort of time would be best for you.

**Rotas for February – May** have now been issued by email, and hard copies for those who have requested them. If you haven't received yours please let Maggie Mellersh know. There are some spare hard copies on the table.

### **St Mark's Prayer Cycle 2020**

The 2020 edition of the St Mark's Prayer Cycle is now available at the back of the church. Do please take one and use it personally for prayer in any way you find helpful.



### **St Mark's extends a warm welcome to newcomers!**

Please do join us for a drink and a biscuit at the end of the service.

If you would like to discuss getting involved in the life of St Mark's, please email

[wardens@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk](mailto:wardens@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk)

or call Jane on 01462 434 686

DO PLEASE TAKE THESE NOTICES HOME WITH YOU

See our website, <http://www.stmarks-hitchin.org.uk> for the latest information about events and services.

St Mark's church is entirely funded from donations and hall hire.

**We receive no external funding.** If you would like to contribute to our running costs, please enquire about giving by Standing Order, or using a Gift Envelope

If you would like to have a notice included in the next news sheet, for a maximum of two weeks,

please email [notices@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk](mailto:notices@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk) or ring Maggie Mellersh on 504003

Please send notices by 7pm on the preceding Wednesday.