

Sunday 25th October
Last Sunday after Trinity
The clocks go back on Saturday 24th October!

Readings for 25th October

Deuteronomy chapter 34 verses 1-12
Colossians chapter 3 verses 12-17
Matthew chapter 24 verses 30-35

Prayers:- From Churches Together in Hitchin Wymondley Baptist Church pray for wisdom as they look at being able to include those who have not yet been able to attend Church.



From St Mark's Prayer Cycle – we pray for the Church of God of Prophecy; Built on Faith Apostolic Church and the Heritage Haven Parish of the Redeemed Christian Church of God. We also pray for the police, fire and ambulance services, and all public transport providers. **This week we pray for the residents of Baliol Road, St Augustine's Close and College Road.**

Prayer Requests – Please send any prayer requests for the whole church to pray for to Andrew, who will then pass them on to the group leaders. Do contact your own group to ask for prayer too.

ONLINE & LIVE CHURCH DIARY – links and details will be sent at 9.30am on Saturday 24th October. *Please note that these may come from either Maggie Mellersh or Andrew & Deirdre – the content will be the same!*

Sunday 25th October – 10am Holy Communion service in church led by Rev Elizabeth Bunker. There will also be a Service of the Word on Youtube from early Sunday morning.
Monday 26th October – Morning Prayer Reading and reflection with John on Youtube
Wednesday 28th October – Morning Prayer in St Mark's Church at 9.15am will be led by John Richardson. Online Morning Prayer led by Tricia Reed will be on Zoom at 9.15am
Friday 30th October – Morning Prayer Reading and reflection with Andrew on Youtube.
Next Sunday 1st November will be our All Age & Family Service on Zoom at 10am.

Remembrance Service – Sunday 8th November 10am in church

This will be our next Holy Communion service in church and will be led by Rev Fizz Gibbs. There will be no uniformed groups or parade this year, but we hope they will be able to join us at our All Age Service on Zoom.

If you would like to attend the Remembrance Service please let Maggie know on notices@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk

Installation of Rev Nick Smith as Vicar of St Mark's – 15th November

We are delighted that Nick will be licensed as our Vicar on Sunday 15th November at 4pm, in St Mark's Church. As you are aware due to Covid 19 we are restricted in the number of people we can safely accommodate in church and so sadly there will be few of our congregation who will be able to physically attend the service. We are working on being able to livestream the service, and also it will be recorded for Youtube, so hopefully many of us can participate in that way, and of course we will all be able to support Nick in prayer.

Some members of the DCC, with their families, will attend as representatives of St Mark's, as well as Nick and Isabelle's family, the Bishop and other clergy from Hitchin Parish, so that will fill the church to the capacity currently possible.

Services up until Christmas

Here are the services we have planned for the next couple of months. Please note that these may be subject to change, due to Covid 19 regulations or revised plans.

1st November	10am Zoom All Age & Family Service
8th November	10am Remembrance Service & Holy Communion in church, led by Rev Fizz Gibbs
15th November	10am Zoom All Age & Family Service 4pm Installation Service in church
22nd November	10am Holy Communion in church, led by Rev Nick Smith
29th November	10am Holy Communion in church, led by Rev Nick Smith
6th December	10am Zoom All Age & Family Service 11.15am Holy Communion in church, led by Rev Nick Smith
13th December	10am Holy Communion in church, led by Rev Nick Smith
20th December	10am Zoom All Age & Family service 11.15am Holy Communion in church, led by Rev Nick Smith

We will let you know our Christmas services soon.

Please continue to let Maggie know if you would like to attend a service in church, especially for Nick's first services. We know that everyone will be very keen to meet him but please bear in mind that we can only have 30 people in church at a time, so we will need to take turns!

Help needed please...

Once we are having weekly services in church, at either 10am or 11.15am, we will need **welcomers** to ensure people follow the protocols for seating and sanitising. If you would be willing to help as a welcomer (which counts for the 30 capacity) please let Maggie know. Likewise we will also need people to **lead the intercessions** and to **read**, so please let John Richardson know which weeks you would be able to help.



Zoom Coffee Sadly we are still unable to have coffee together after church as it would be breaking the Rule of 6 (worship services are permitted but not social gatherings). So we plan to continue having our Zoom coffee at 10.45 – 11.45 each Sunday as long as there are people who wish to join us. We would be very grateful for any offers to host this occasionally – if you don't have a paid-for Zoom account you can use one of ours. Please contact Maggie if you can help – even once between now and Christmas would be a help.

This week our friends without computers will receive a hard copy of the reading and reflection given by Andrew Parr on Friday 16th October.

CHURCH & COMMUNITY NEWS & UPDATES

Traidcraft – you may be starting to think about Christmas, which is going to be very different this year for many of us. Traidcraft are selling charity Christmas cards which support Traidcraft Exchange; SCIAF; CAFOD and Christian Aid. A selection of their designs can be found here They also have Real Advent calendars (Fairtrade chocolate and an activity book telling the Christmas story) and a range of Fairtrade products and ethical gifts, foodstuffs and other items. Their online shop is at www.traidcraftshop.co.uk You can either order directly – orders over £50 have free p&p - or via Maggie Mellersh.

Message from Nick and Isabelle Smith

Dear St Mark's, thank you so much for the lovely welcome cards, food, drinks, and flowers! We've been made to feel incredibly welcome even before meeting most of you! You may not see much of us until Nick starts in November as we're taking advantage of the time off to get set up in the house, see friends & family, and enjoy the countryside after a busy & intense time in London. But we're so excited to join the St Mark's family and the kindness you've shown us tells us that St Mark's is everything we've heard it is! So thank you and see you soon! With love from Nick and Isabelle.

Safeguarding Training – a gentle reminder

Churches are open places, and we encourage people to belong and to befriend and care for one another. But because of that openness, church communities are vulnerable to those who seek to harm others. Ensuring a safe environment for everyone is part of our Christian duty to love our neighbour as ourselves.

This is a gentle reminder to all that have been sent an email if you hold a particular office at St Marks that requires you to do Safeguarding Training. This training is renewed every three years. It is only a short time commitment, but really important for understanding the issues and making sure you can respond confidently and well if a concern is raised.

C2 Leadership (Deanery) Safeguarding

Due to COVID-19 this is not classroom face to face and is now online via Zoom.

To access the course and book

<https://www.stalbans.anglican.org/diocese/deanerysafeguarding/>

On this website more events are being added all the time, so if there's not a time that looks suitable, check again later.

For Bereavement Visitors

Pastoral Visitors

Home Communion Visitors

Sunday School Leaders/helpers/Crèche/Travellers/Pathfinders

Church Wardens

PCC Representative

CO Basic Awareness (online)

For newly appointed DCC members

To access the course

<https://safeguardingtraining.cofeportal.org/>

C1 Foundation (online)

For existing DCC Members due for renewal
 To access the course
<https://safeguardingtraining.cofeportal.org/>

If you have any problems accessing the safeguarding courses or you're not sure if you are due to renew or have not had an email then please contact me via the notices email. Please let me know the date that you are booked onto a course and on completion forward me a copy of your certificate for my files. Thank you to all who have updated or have dates booked in the future for training.
 Pauline Banks – Safeguarding Officer

Christchurch - Youth & Children's Worker

Christchurch Hitchin wishes to appoint a Youth and Children's Worker as part of its ministry team. The person will build authentic relationships, equip young people to grow through their own faith journeys, share their passion for Jesus in creative and innovative ways and make a positive difference in this community. Salary: £24,000, full-time. For information and application pack please visit the website: www.christchurchhitchin.org.uk Closing date for applications 1st November 2020.

THE FOODBANK

WAYS YOU CAN HELP IN 2020



Harvest Appeal – 6th October

Thanks to everyone who brought down bags of items for the harvest collection on the afternoon of Sunday 6th. We took 24 bags in all down to the food bank on Tuesday which

included some from our neighbours in Lancaster Road and Avenue. A great community effort! Everyone's generosity was much appreciated.

Matt and Gail have received the following letter from the Foodbank:-

Dear Matt,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Hitchin Foodbank, to thank you and your Church, St Mark's Church, Hitchin, for thinking of us at this difficult time, and for your recent extremely generous donation of 24 bags of food to this Charity. Many thanks for bringing the food to our Distribution Centre. Just one item donated, when combined with other people's contributions helps to make up a much needed 3-day food parcel for people who have been referred to us (sometimes via a Church). Our unique red voucher system ensures that only deserving people, who are having real difficulty in putting food on the table, receive our (and indirectly – your) help. If we did not have people like yourselves making financial donations or contributing food, then there is no doubt that our Charity would cease to exist, and desperate, needy people would go hungry.

Please could you display/distribute this letter so that all those from the Church who were involved in the collection, can see it.

God bless, Keith Catchpole (liaison between Hitchin Churches and the Foodbank)

Job Club at Zeo, Bedford Rd on Wed 10am-12 noon

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

Ready, steady, cook

Well needless to say I have totally lost interest in baking since flour has become freely available but I have a new plan to make the evening meal more of a gourmet experience for the Husband and me. Once a week I intend to cook a recipe that I have never attempted before from the vast array of cookery books that adorn my kitchen, most in pristine condition except for the good old favorites that I have had for years and bear the stains of misaimed cooking ingredients. The only snag I have come across in this new endeavour is the multitude of strange spices and herbs that seem to be required. A pinch of this, half a pinch of that and a teaspoon of the other. So for each of my chosen forthcoming delights it appears I need a whole new selection of such essential ingredients. So I will buy all the stuff needed for "Custard covered spicy prawns with lemon grass and peanut butter couscous" and then for next week "Black Squid ink pasta with banana fritters and assorted herbs a la Sicilian style" and for the following week "lightly grilled salad within puff pastry and an almond raspberry sauce" Watch this space for future ideas and also alerts from the food standards agency or the Lister A&E!!!. Also bear in mind that I will have ample supplies of weird spices and herbs with only a pinch taken out that anyone can borrow. Let's start a herb and spice sharing society because otherwise they will all go out of date before we need them again. Joy x

Please let us know what you would like to see in the notices, and send in any ideas, messages, photographs, poems or prayers (not too long please!)

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.

