

Sunday 15th November
2nd Sunday before Advent

Readings for 15th November

Zephaniah chapter 1 verses 7, 12-18
1 Thessalonians chapter 5 verses 1-11
Matthew chapter 25 verses 14-30

Prayers:- From Churches Together in Hitchin - Walsworth Road Baptist Church ask for prayer for the Shoebox Project that is being organised this month. We pray for protection for all volunteers whether at home or in church and for Andrew & Julie as they coordinate the project. **Our Lady's Roman Catholic Church** ask for our prayers as they remember all of their parishioners that have died during the past year at their memorial service today. We thank God that **PHASE** is able to be back in schools, if in a limited way, teaching face to face sessions and engaging directly with students.



From St Mark's Prayer Cycle – Please pray today for the licensing service at 4pm, especially for Nick and Isabelle, and all those taking part. We also pray that the technology would work so that as many as possible can participate. From our Prayer Cycle we pray today for all those in our community living with drug and alcohol addictions, and support agencies.

This week we pray for the residents of Milestone Road and Truemans 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 14th November.

Sunday 15th November – our **All Age & Family Service** will be on Zoom at 10am.

Church open for private prayer 10am – 12pm.

Nick's **Licensing service** will also be on Zoom at 4pm – see separate box below.

Monday 16th November – **Morning Prayer Reading and reflection** with John on Youtube.

Wednesday 18th November – **Online Morning Prayer** led by Tricia will be on Zoom at 9.15am.

Church open for private prayer 6pm – 8pm.

Friday 20th November – **Morning Prayer Reading and reflection** with Andrew on Youtube.

Our services on Sunday 22nd and Sunday 29th November will be online during the second lockdown. We will let you know what format these will take next week.

Revd Nick Smith's Licensing Service.

We are delighted to confirm that Revd Nick Smith's licensing service will take place via Zoom on **Sunday 15th Nov at 4pm**. The service will be conducted by the Bishop of St Albans.

We will open up Zoom at 3.45pm to allow people to get in and will start promptly at 4pm.

As we expect this to be a very well-attended service, we ask that each household please join via one Zoom screen only, to allow as many different households and people as possible to

attend. As we are expecting a large attendance, please don't worry if you find yourself in the waiting room for longer than at our usual Zoom services. It may take a while to admit everyone.

Please note that the service will be recorded and, we hope, subsequently uploaded to YouTube. If you do not wish to appear in view in the recording, please join without video. You will be muted on entry but will be asked to unmute yourself at two points in the service. We will have Zoom coffee after the service (on a separate Zoom link) so you will get a chance to chat and to meet Nick.

The Zoom links and Order of Service will be emailed to you on Saturday morning.

We hope that you can join us and if not, please do pray for Nick and Isabelle and everyone involved in the service.

National Daily Prayer 6pm – we are joining Christians across the country in a short daily prayer session on Zoom every day during lockdown. Here is the link:-

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86520178755?pwd=S2ltQ0prM0hpbkZYM3NtYWdpVmlBdz09>

Meeting ID: 865 2017 8755

Passcode: 293874

We hope you can join us when you are able.

Here is a link to a letter from the Archbishops of Canterbury and York to the nation. [link](#)

Churches open for private prayer – St Mark's Church will be open for private prayer during the second lockdown on Wednesday evenings, 6pm-8pm and on Sunday mornings 10am – 12pm.

If you are in town St Mary's church is open for individual prayer on Tuesdays 2-4pm and Saturdays 10.30am-12.30pm and Our Lady's Roman Catholic church is open for prayer daily at 10.30-11.30am.



Join in with our nativity service..

This year we would love members of the congregation (any age!) to be part of our online nativity. **BUT HOW?!** We hear you ask... We will give you all small parts to film on your phone and send into us so we can produce another St Mark's film.

Email by the 16th Nov to tell us you want a part!

This week our friends without computers will receive a hard copy of the reading and reflection given by John Richardson on 9th November.

CHURCH & COMMUNITY NEWS & UPDATES

Congratulations to Steph and Barry on the arrival of Samuel Henry, born at home at 3.07 am on Monday 9 November, weighing 2.944 kg (6lb 8oz). His mother Alison, his father,

Anthony, and he are all very well. The shawl is the one knitted by his maternal great-grandmother for his mother's baptism in St Mark's on 25 March 1990.

Getting to know you... Thank you to those of you who have already sent in their biopics - in order to help Nick start to learn who we all are and put names to faces (even harder in these days of face coverings!) we thought it would be a good idea if everyone could write a brief piece, including a photo if possible, just saying a little about themselves and their family, how long they've been in Hitchin/at St Mark's, and what sort of things they're involved in at



church. Just 1 or 2 sides of an A4 page would be perfect. Please can you send them to Maggie who will print them off and put together a folder for Nick. If you don't have a computer but would be able to handwrite something please ring Maggie and she will collect it from you.

Church gardening working party needed. 10 am Saturday 21 November. Two areas to deal with: overgrown shrubs by the steps leading from the main road and weeding the gravel in St Mark's Close. Bring secateurs, loppers, garden fork and containers for weeds, etc if you have them. Contact Helen 07880 682681.

Hitchin Christmas Hamper Appeal – last year this appeal provided 151 festive hampers to local individuals and families. Instead of food donations this year they are asking for the community to help them raise funds so that families can be given supermarket vouchers, and gift bags for their children. Please use this link to find out more information about how you can support the appeal:- [link](#) Or you can donate via their Just Giving page at <https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/feedHitchin>

Reflective colouring for those who are anxious

Illustrated Ministry have made three reflective colouring sheets available for free download, with a prayer to accompany each of them. These are not just for children, but for anyone who is feeling anxious as we go through lockdown.

<https://illustratedmin.s3.amazonaws.com/freebies/WhenYouFeelAnxious.pdf?fbclid=IwAR1xJdfL2aUPdklpa6aKnVgPGpS0aEVdzVDNJB15WcawYm76nMCdO084L0>

Making Plans for further Winter lockdown

Well me and the Husband have started making provision for activities to keep us from going completely mad now we are locked down again. Jigsaws seem to be a favourite idea so we have ordered some very challenging ones. The plate of Baked Beans will obviously drive us to the brink of insanity. Anyone want to do it after we have? just let me know. I intend to up my Piano practice time as poor Marco is getting very frustrated, he hides it well but the nervous twitch has got worse. Then I will try and improve my Italian language skills and start

the book that apparently everyone has in them. Back to the Jigsaws – last year I took a few to the Charity Shop (I see no point in doing them more than once). Then this weekend I ventured into the loft to find the Jigsaw mat which enables you to keep what you've done safe and off the dining table. Well found it but to my horror found a semi completed view of the Italian Lakes which was one of the puzzles I took to the Charity Shop agggghhh!!!! So someone may have got a raw deal. I hope it wasn't one of you. Joy xxxx

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.