

Sunday 8th November
3rd Sunday before Advent
Remembrance Day

Readings for 8th November

Amos chapter 5 verses 18-24

1 Thessalonians chapter 4 verses 13 - end

Matthew chapter 25 verses 1-13



Prayers:- From Churches Together in Hitchin - Wymondley Baptist Church ask for wisdom and God's guidance as they consider the

right time to open up their Church for Sunday Services and also as

they mount a Remembrance Service today. **Christchurch** ask for

prayers in support of their new initiative "First Baby Group" meeting

each Tuesday, particularly remembering Louise Selby who is co-ordinating this initiative in her role of Christchurch Family Worker.

From St Mark's Prayer Cycle – we pray for St Mark's District Church Council and all the sub committees and give thanks for their commitment and service to our church. Today we also pray for Arthritis Care and the National Osteoporosis Society. **This week we pray for the residents of Westmill Road, Westmill Court and Westmill Lawns.**

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 CHURCH DIARY – links and details will be sent at 9.30am on Saturday 7th November.

Sunday 8th November – St Mark's **Remembrance Service** will be on Youtube from early Sunday morning.

Monday 9th November – **Morning Prayer Reading and reflection** with John on Youtube.

Wednesday 11th November – **Online Morning Prayer** led by Tricia will be on Zoom at 9.15am.

Friday 13th November – **Morning Prayer Reading and reflection** with Andrew on Youtube.

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

National Month of Prayer 6pm – we are joining Christians across the country in a short daily prayer session on Zoom every day during lockdown. We sent out an email on Wednesday which contained the link and more details, but here it is again:-

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86520178755?pwd=S2ltQQprM0hpbkZYM3NtYWdpVmlBdz09>

Meeting ID: 865 2017 8755

Passcode: 293874

It will be the same link every day, but different leaders. It follows a 7-day cycle, and each day we will be praying for a specific area of concern, eg. Sunday – family and friends; Monday – schools and colleges; Tuesday – elderly, isolated and vulnerable, and so on. 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.

Getting to know you... 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 biopic, 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 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 for when he starts with us. If you don't have a computer but would be able to handwrite something please let Maggie know on notices@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk



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.

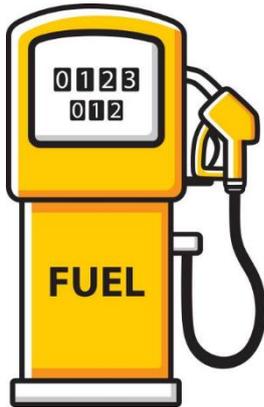
Email Rachel via notices@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk

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

CHURCH & COMMUNITY NEWS & UPDATES



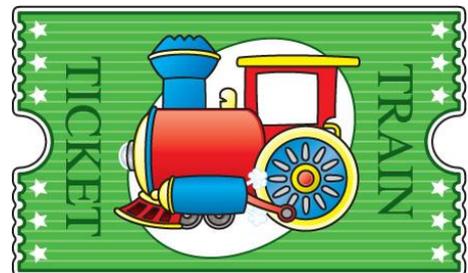
We are delighted to welcome the newest member of our church family, Aiden who was so eager to join us he arrived 3 weeks early, weighing 5lb 12oz. Aoife (his sister) and family are all doing well. We send them our warmest congratulations!



Generosity in Christ

St Mark's church family is a generous and loving family, and so it is with a heavy heart that we ask you to consider extending your generosity even further, if you are able. Whilst many have and continue to suffer extraordinary hardship because of the pandemic, some of us are blessed to have reduced our travel costs through not using our cars as much, nor routinely using public transport. If you have saved on travel costs, please would you consider donating the cost of a tank of fuel or a monthly travel pass, to help St Mark's? We have lost £5,500 income this year through loss of income from the hall rent, and although we are now hiring the hall out again the income is still much lower than before lockdown.

If you have not been travelling as much during the pandemic and are able to donate the value of a tank of fuel, or train ticket, it would help to meet the shortfall, and help us to meet our Parish Share. If you normally give by standing order, you can make an extra payment using the same account details. Or you can donate on the St Mark's website www.stmarks-hitchin.org using the "Donate" button.



Rebellious household gadgets!

The automatic can opener has now decided its not going to let go of the tin lid when its finished going round. I have had words and bashed it a couple of times but it still stubbornly refuses to let go. It's on a verbal warning!!! The toaster has decided that on one side of the 4 compartments it only needs to toast one side of the bread. The ice compartment in the fridge is jammed solid and the hair dryer will have to be employed to defrost it - that's if the strange burning smell emanating from said dryer can be cured. The Hoover has started to spit out more than it picks up!!! for reasons best known to itself. The "Alexa" doodah keeps giving us strange messages of no relevance to us - big brother is looking in on us I fear . The loo cistern is still making drowning cat noises (the Husband has still to fix it). The electric scales have decided not to register ounces (yes I still work in old money). Apart from all the above issues all is well in the Bennett household. Good news we have been dining in the beach hut. The Husband has suggested that we get an aerosol spray of essence of fish n chips and /or doughnuts to create the beach side ambiance not sure about these but I did like his idea of sound effects of crashing waves and Sea Gulls . Joy xx

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.