

Sunday 10th January 2021
Second Sunday of Epiphany
The Baptism of Christ

Readings for 10th January

Genesis chapter 1 verses 1-5

Acts chapter 19 verses 1-7

Mark chapter 1 verses 4-11



From Churches Together in Hitchin:- Zeo Church ask that we please join in prayer with them that their congregation will continue to feel a sense of belonging together even after such a long time without seeing each other. We pray for those who have been attending online The Prayer Course at **Walsworth Road Baptist**

Church since last October. May they be energised and ready to embrace the power of prayer in their lives.

From St Mark's Prayer Cycle:- we pray for the bishops, clergy and staff of the Diocese of St Albans. We also pray this week for the Lister Hospital. We especially pray for protection, strength and encouragement for the staff who are struggling to cope with the coronavirus. We also pray for all patients, and for the hospital chaplains who are trying to provide support.

This week we pray for the residents of Westbury Close, Friday Furlong, Lower Innings

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

Daily Prayer Meeting with Hannah, Imogen and Gail. This is at 6pm every evening on Zoom and lasts for about 5 minutes. Contact Maggie for the link.

A Prayer for our World

Lord God, You alone are worthy of honour, glory and praise.

With You, we can overcome every storm –
including the global impact COVID-19 is having on our world.

Right now, we are asking You to:-

- Heal those who are sick and protect those who are not.
- Give our leaders extra wisdom as they navigate this pandemic and economic uncertainty.
- Strengthen Your global church. Reveal to us how we can partner together to reach the needs of those around us.
- Calm our fears. Fill us with Your hope, joy, and peace as we continue to trust in You.
- Use this pandemic to pave the way for spiritual renewal. We want Your glory, power, and healing to be on display.



Come Lord Jesus, come. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Web-assets.youversion.com

ONLINE CHURCH DIARY – links will be sent on Saturday morning. If you aren't on our mailing list for the links and would like to join a service please contact admin@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk

Sunday 10th January – there will be a **10am Communion service** livestreamed from church on Zoom. This will be recorded for later viewing on Youtube.

Monday 11th January - Morning Prayer Reading & reflection with John on Youtube.

Wednesday 13th January – Online Morning Prayer on Zoom at 9.15am

Friday 15th January – Morning Prayer Reading & reflection with Andrew on Youtube.

Next Sunday, 17th January there will be an **All Age Service on Zoom at 10am.**

There will also be a recorded service available on Youtube.

*This week our friends without computers will receive a sermon and a short service of prayer and Bible readings from Nick, which can be prayed through alone, with someone from your household or over the phone with a friend. **If anyone else would like a copy of the service please let Maggie know and she will send it to you.***

CHURCH & COMMUNITY NEWS

Bill Shinn – the funeral service for Bill Shinn will take place at the North Hertfordshire Crematorium on 12th January at 11.00. Due to the Covid situation there will be very few who are able to attend in person, but the service will be livestreamed for anyone wishing to view it. It is hoped that later in the year there will be a thanksgiving service for Bill's life at St Mary's.

If you would like the link please email admin@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk

You can login to the website at any time to view a test connection (and it is strongly recommended that you do this) but you'll only be able to view the Live Webcast approx. 5 mins before the service start time.

Church Directory - are there people that you used to see on Sunday but haven't spoken to over lock-down? Why not call or email them? We are currently refreshing our directory, and everyone who has agreed that others in the congregation may see their contact details is in it. We used to give it out in hard copy, and that is still available for those who prefer it that way, but you can also access it on a special (GDPR-compliant!) app called MyChurchsuite - just contact Maggie for either a hard copy or a MyCS invite. The directory includes photos, some of which are rather old now, so if you would like to update yours, you can do it yourself via MyCS, or just email a photo to Maggie.

Safeguarding training courses

For those who have not managed to book a C2 Leadership (Deanery) Safeguarding Course. I can confirm that more dates have been added for 2021 on the Diocesan Website.

Dates from 16/02/2021 - 14/03/2021

To access this course and book

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

If you have any queries then please do not hesitate to contact me via St Mark's admin.

Pauline

Safeguarding Officer -St Mark's

Lockdown notes from Joy – we owe Joy a big thank you for keeping us entertained each week with her “musings”. When she started back in March 2020 little did she, or we, think that this would still be continuing almost a year later! Thank you for making us smile Joy!



Duncan the disgruntled donkey

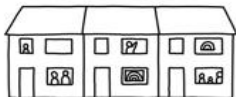
Oh dear me Duncan the Donkey has been in a proper mood all over Christmas and the New Year. He was so looking forward to appearing, neigh starring, in the Advent Adventure trail scheduled for 23rd and 24th Dec. He was taking it all very very seriously, in fact he had been practicing his prances, poses, bucking and braying and all sorts for days. On the 22nd Dec I got the news that due to the increased COVID measures his presence would not be required. I had, therefore, to break the sad news to Duncan that he was off the agenda. He did not take it well at all, he became very stropy and acted in a very diva ish and unbecoming manner to say the very least. Moaning that weeks of posturing and practice had been a total waste of his time and effort. Well, for the next week he put himself on hunger strike refusing even the biggest and most succulent carrots I could lay my hands on. He just stood with his head hung low in the corner of the stable. My suggestion that he could trot down our road on Christmas morning or at any time he fancied, bedecked in tinsel, was met with total derision. Then I suggested that there may well be a chance to appear at Easter in an equally important role at which point one of his sad, hung down, long ears lifted slightly. So there is glimmer of hope on the horizon for him. Joy

We put a copy of this illustration from Cartoon Church in the notices early in the first national lockdown, but think it is worth repeating.

BEATITUDES

FOR A GLOBAL PANDEMIC

BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO STAY INDOORS



FOR THEY HAVE PROTECTED OTHERS

BLESSED ARE THE UNEMPLOYED AND THE SELF-EMPLOYED



FOR THEIR NEED OF GOD IS GREAT

BLESSED ARE THE CORNER SHOPKEEPERS



FOR THEY ARE THE PURVEYORS OF SCARCE THINGS

BLESSED ARE THE DELIVERY DRIVERS AND THE POSTAL WORKERS



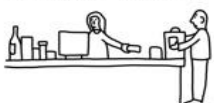
FOR THEY ARE THE BRINGERS OF ESSENTIAL THINGS

BLESSED ARE THE HOSPITAL WORKERS, THE AMBULANCE CREWS, THE DOCTORS, THE NURSES, THE CARE ASSISTANTS, AND THE CLEANERS



FOR THEY STAND BETWEEN US AND THE GRAVE, AND THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS SURELY THEIRS

BLESSED ARE THE CHECKOUT WORKERS



FOR THEY HAVE PATIENCE AND FORTITUDE IN THE FACE OF OVERWORK AND FRUSTRATION

BLESSED ARE THE REFUSE COLLECTORS



FOR THEY WILL SEE GOD DESPITE THE MOUNTAINS OF WASTE

BLESSED ARE THE TEACHERS



FOR THEY REMAIN STEADFAST AND CONSTANT IN DISTURBING TIMES

BLESSED ARE THE CHURCH WORKERS; THE DEACONS, PRIESTS AND BISHOPS



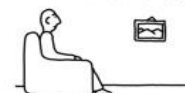
FOR THEY ARE A COMFORTING PRESENCE IN A HURTING WORLD AS THEY CONTINUE TO SIGNPOST TOWARDS GOD

BLESSED ARE THE SINGLE PARENTS,



FOR THEY ARE COPING ALONE WITH THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES AND THERE IS NO RESPITE

BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO ARE ALONE,



FOR THEY ARE CHILDREN OF GOD AND WITH HIM THEY WILL NEVER BE LONELY

BLESSED ARE THE BEREAVED,



FOR WHOM THE WORST HAS ALREADY HAPPENED, THEY SHALL BE COMFORTED

BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO ARE ISOLATED WITH THEIR ABUSERS



FOR ONE DAY - WE PRAY - THEY WILL KNOW SAFETY

BLESSED ARE ALL DURING THIS TIME WHO HAVE PURE HEARTS; ALL WHO STILL HUNGER AND THIRST FOR JUSTICE; ALL WHO WORK FOR PEACE AND WHO MODEL MERCY



MAY YOU KNOW COMFORT. MAY YOU KNOW CALM. AND MAY THE GRACE OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, AND THE LOVE OF GOD, AND THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, BE WITH US ALL. AMEN

TEXT: JAYNE MANFREDI

CartoonChurch.com

*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.*