

Sunday 20th June 2021
Third Sunday after Trinity

What's in this week....

1. Readings & prayers
2. Church diary
- 3. Another update about future services at St Mark's**
4. Art & Craft Fair
5. Good recovery
6. Little Lions returns...
7. St Mark's Open Gardens – Sat 26th June
8. Phase and the Hitchin Home Olympics
9. An Evening with Charlie Duke, astronaut
10. St Alban Pilgrimage 2021
11. Wondrous Weekend – Joy

Readings for 20th June

1 Samuel chapter 17 verses 32 – 49
2 Corinthians chapter 6 verses 1-13
Mark chapter 4 verses 35-41



PRAYERS:- From Churches Together in Hitchin

Give thanks to God for the special Father's Day service happening today and the Charlie Duke special event taking place next Saturday at **Walsworth Road Baptist Church**. We pray that these events attract unchurched families and friends, who may then hear stirring Christian testimonies. **Christchurch** supports and provides facilities for a number of activities centred on the very young. Please join Christchurch in praying for the long-running Christchurch Baby and Toddler Group. Also please remember in your prayers Daisychains, which supports pre-school children with additional needs and their carers and First Baby Group, a newer and informal group for first time parents and carers that offers support, friendship and space to talk.

From St Mark's Prayer Cycle:- This week please pray for The Society of Friends (Quakers) We also pray for prisoners and their families, victims of crime and immigrant detainees in Yarl's Wood Detention Centre. **This week please pray for the residents of Periwinkle Lane and Water Lane.**

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.

Friday 6pm prayers and drink with the Litterick family. For details contact admin@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk

CHURCH DIARY - links for online services will be sent by email on Saturday morning. *Because we are still limiting numbers to allow for social distancing in church please email Maggie on admin@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk if you would like to book a place for a Sunday service.*

Sunday 20th June – 10am All Age service on Zoom. 11.15am Communion service in church only. **Service of the Word** on Youtube. **Coffee** outside (weather permitting!) – Bring your own mug, spoon and biscuits!

Monday 21st June - **Reading & reflection** with Rev Melanie Crowley on Youtube.

Wednesday 23rd June – **Morning Prayer** in church at 9.15am. No need to book.

Online Morning Prayer on Zoom at 9.15am.

Friday 25th June – **Reading & reflection** with Andrew on Youtube.

Sunday 27th June – 10am **Communion service** in church, livestreamed and uploaded to Youtube

This week our friends without computers will receive a copy of the sermon given by Nick on Sunday 13th June.



ANOTHER UPDATE ABOUT FUTURE SERVICES AT ST MARK'S

By now you're probably all aware that the decision has been made to delay the move to stage 4 of the Government Roadmap until July 19th.

Therefore, as we explained in last week's notices, we will continue for the time being with the current situation of limiting numbers in church, so please continue to book a place each Sunday with Maggie – this is not just for making sure that we are able to maintain social distancing, it also means that we have a record of attendance if we should require it for test and trace purposes (the record is only kept for 3 weeks).

The plan for the pattern of services for the next month will be as follows –

Sunday 27th June – 10am Communion service in church, livestreamed on Zoom and uploaded to Youtube. Plus outdoor Sunday School (more details to follow).

Sunday 4th July – 10am Communion service in church, as above, plus outdoor Sunday School.

Sunday 11th July – 10 am Communion service in church, as above, plus outdoor Sunday School.

Sunday 18th July – 10am All Age Service either on Zoom or outdoors; 11.15am Communion service in church; Service of the Word on Youtube.

We hope that once we move to stage 4 we will no longer need to limit numbers, and we can return to our pre-pandemic pattern of services, but this will of course be subject to Government and national Church guidelines.

Nick, Louise & Joy

CHURCH & COMMUNITY NEWS

St Mark's Art & Craft Fair – Sunday 15th August 1 – 5pm Don't forget to put this in your diary! If anyone is willing to bake or buy cakes to serve during the afternoon, or if you can help serve refreshments please contact Val via admin@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk

Good recovery – Joy is making excellent progress following her recent operation and is now happy to receive calls or visits from her friends at St Mark's.



Little Lions returns!! After a long break, we are pleased to announce that our baby & toddler group Little Lions is back! We will be running two 'pilot' sessions before the summer holidays on **Friday 25th June** and **Friday 9th July** from 9:30-11:00am in the church hall. The church Covid restrictions will be in place, and if possible, we ask that all parents bring their own mug/travel cup for refreshments. We hope to see some of you there! If you would like any more information, please get in touch with

Daphne or Beckie via admin@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk

Open Gardens Saturday 26 June 2-5pm As a way of having a social event in the fresh air you are invited to visit all or some of the gardens on offer from members of the congregation. An opportunity to meet each other again! Do take a mask as some gardens may be accessed via the house. Do take your own mug to enjoy refreshments where they are on offer. Please try to keep social distance in gardens. If you wish to make a donation to St Mark's at one of the gardens you are welcome to do so.

Enjoy a different surrounding and smell the roses!

For details of the gardens contact admin@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk



Phase and The Hitchin Home Olympics

For many years, Phase has been doing a wonderful job of supporting young people in our local schools, helping them to learn about emotional and mental wellbeing and what they can do to look after it. As you can imagine, they have been very busy during

lockdown and since schools have returned to face to face learning. So after a difficult year, they thought it would be great to have some fun together and raise funds (target £10,000) to continue their brilliant work. To this end they are hosting the Hitchin Home Olympics and are inviting all churches to get involved.

There are two ways to do this:

The June Olympic Relay Torch Challenge – they aim to take a **virtual** torch all the way from Hitchin to Tokyo - 5,953 miles. Phase would love people to walk a mile (or more) and donate £1 towards their fundraising target.

The Olympics Challenge – this is going to take place from 2 – 16 July. Phase invite us to get involved and set ourselves a sponsored Olympic-themed challenge, whether sporty or otherwise (e.g. learning 20 words of Japanese, making sushi).

For more information about how to get involved or to donate, go to www.phase-hitchin.org/olympics or contact Deirdre via admin@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk

Saturday 26th June, 7pm - An Evening with Charlie Duke – Apollo 16 Astronaut. Walsworth Road Baptist Church have been able to secure ‘an audience with Charlie’ by live video-link from Texas. He will share his experience of being the tenth man to walk on the moon, and also his Christian faith. This is a free event but you will need to register for the Zoom connection. Contact events@wrbchitchin.org.uk More details [here](#).



St Alban Pilgrimage Reimagined – Sunday 27th June – the annual Alban Pilgrimage resumes for 2021. Louise and Sandra are thinking of walking from Hitchin to the Abbey for 4pm Evensong. If anyone would like to join them for some, or all, of this please contact Louise or Sandra via admin@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk

Wondrous Weekend

Hi Folks well its Sunday late pm (hottest day of the year so far 13th June) and me and the Husband are snoozing in the shade laying in the recovery position restoring our strength following the visit of the 5 Grandchildren this weekend. It was great fun but sooo exhausting. Eldest lot 7, 5 and 3, youngest 3 months and 6 months. We had to inflate the paddling pool, at the last minute, by mouth as we gave away the pump last year for reasons unknown. So two very red faced, out of breath adults were found lying face down on the lawn by son Max who had come to prep the BBQ, who then wanted to call 999 but we recovered enough to assure him we didn't need to be hospitalised. Warm water added to the pool to create the perfect temperature for the little dears. Loads of multi coloured plastic balls thrown into the pool much to the dogs excitement. The BBQ was fired up and delicious food appeared courtesy of Max. 6 adults and 5 children then had a great time. Bubbles are my favourite thing (in fact if anyone wants to remember I would like anyone attending my funeral to bring a bottle and blow them in the air) so I purchased a huge bubble wand from “B and M” plus extra solution, yippee. The wand produced the most huge bubbles that floated all over the entire neighbourhood much to the bewilderment of the nearby dogs and children. Lots of ohhs and ahhrrs were heard from quite a way down the road. Anyone who has visits from small children will know there are always things left behind which in our case need posting back to them. So in a box tomorrow go 2 sun hats, 1 sock, a pair of pants and several random Lego pieces. A very small price to pay for such a

wonderful weekend especially as the eldest 3 are off to Cyprus for a year at the end of this month, with their Mum Willow and Army Dad Tim. Love Joy xx

*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.*

