

**Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2021**  
**Fourth Sunday after Trinity**

**What's in this week....**

1. Readings & prayers
2. Church diary
3. Good news!
4. St Mark's Open Gardens – this Saturday
5. Art & Craft Fair
6. Little Lions returns...
7. St Alban Pilgrimage 2021
8. Christian Aid Week update
9. Phase and the Hitchin Home Olympics
10. An Evening with Charlie Duke, astronaut
11. A liberating day – Joy

**Readings for 27<sup>th</sup> June**

2 Samuel chapter 1 verses 1, 17-27

2 Corinthians chapter 8 verses 7-24

Mark chapter 5 verses 21-43



**CHURCHES  
TOGETHER  
in HITCHIN**

**PRAYERS:- From Churches Together in Hitchin**

**PHASE** ask that we join them in prayer for the “It’s Your Move” workshops that will be led in year 6 classes to help pupils prepare for their move to secondary school.

Please join in prayer with **Wymondley Baptist Church** leaders, as they themselves pray that they can be discerning and know God's guidance in how to empathetically encourage their congregation back into the church when it is safe.

**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. This week we also pray for the police, fire and ambulance services and those who provide public transport.

**This week please pray for the residents of Baliol Road, St Augustine's Close & 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 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](mailto: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](mailto:admin@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk) if you would like to book a place for a Sunday service.*

**Friday 25<sup>th</sup> June – 9.30-11am Little Lions** – see notice below.

**Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> June – 2-5pm Open Gardens** – see notice below

**Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> June – 10am Holy Communion service** in church, livestreamed on Zoom and uploaded to Youtube later. **Outdoors Sunday School** – Book a place at church for adults, but no need to book for children. Drop children off on the memorial garden side of the church (Bedford Road side) before the service. During communion they will come into church and sit at the back. After the service they can come and find you/you can collect them! **Coffee** outside (weather permitting!) – Bring your own mug, spoon and biscuits!

**Monday 28<sup>th</sup> June - Reading & reflection** with Nick on Youtube.

**Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> June – Morning Prayer** in church at 9.15am. No need to book.

**Online Morning Prayer** on Zoom at 9.15am.

*From July, the Reflections Team will produce only one video per week, having posted over 200 since March 2020. The weekly video will be uploaded to be available from Monday onwards. We hope you will understand that, as we return gradually to normal church life with services in the building, we must focus on those; consequently, we will not have the capacity to maintain the same frequency of online offerings. We are sorry if this is disappointing news. We are very grateful to Andrew, John and all the others who have contributed to this over the past 18 months.*

**Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> July – 10am Communion service** in church, livestreamed and uploaded to Youtube, with outdoor Sunday School.

*This week our friends without computers will receive a copy of the sermon given by Andrew on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> June.*

## **CHURCH & COMMUNITY NEWS**

**Good news!** Jane is delighted to announce that she has a new granddaughter, named Raya, born on Father's Day to Marad and Sam. All are doing well. She is also pleased to say that her grandson AJ is now much improved, thank you for your prayers.

**More good news...** Joy is pleased to say that the St Mark's history scrap books have been found and are back at Church. If anyone would like to borrow them please get in touch with Joy via [admin@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk](mailto:admin@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk)

**And more good news...** Clare would like to let people know that she has been discharged from the QE2 and clear of breast cancer. They both would like to thank everyone for the care, support and prayers they have had over the last 6 years, with this hanging over them.



**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 contact [admin@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk](mailto:admin@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk)

**St Mark's Art & Craft Fair – Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:admin@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk)



**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 this **Friday 25<sup>th</sup> June** and **Friday 9<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:admin@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk)

**St Alban Pilgrimage Reimagined – Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> June** – If anyone is interested in walking from Hitchin to St Alban's on Sunday please contact Louise or Sandra via [admin@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk](mailto:admin@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk)

**Christian Aid Week:** Thank you to all who contributed to the Week. The church collections together with gift aid came to a total of £2,793.61. Thank you to those who donated on line and the person who ran it on a Facebook page. The total from online we don't get to know but we give thanks in faith that in this 75th year of Christian Aid's the contributions were helpful. If you missed out on giving you can still do so on the website as the work with the poorest of the poor suffering from the results of climate change continues all year round.



### **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](http://www.phase-hitchin.org/olympics) or contact Deirdre via [admin@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk](mailto:admin@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk)

**Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:events@wrbchitchin.org.uk) More details [here](#).

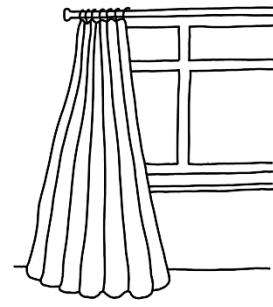
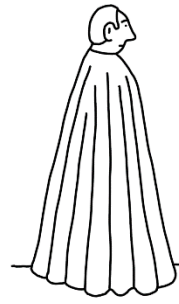
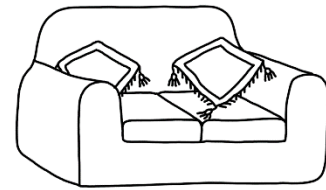
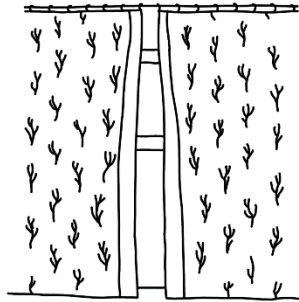
### **A liberating day!!!**

Well hello me again. I do hope what I am writing does not come as a shock to some of you anyway here goes. Well the 1<sup>st</sup> of June was a very momentous occasion for me and my best mate, from our school days, Pats. It is something that has been on our minds for a few years, well ever since we became 60 - five years ago and now we are heading for our 65th this year agghhh we wanted to mark the occasion with something reckless and memorable. So we went together and we each had a tattoo done. I wasn't going to mention it but I have been encouraged to by a member of the congregation who will remain nameless (you know who you are) to confess. They are both very tasteful and discreet and not available for public viewing. Pats had an Italian word meaning “in the meantime” to describe what has been going on in the world at this time and about biding our time till things all change for the better and “in the meantime” we have to make the best of our lives. I had a logo of entwined hearts designed by my favourite singer Leonard Cohen. His songs, music and poetry have sustained me through the most difficult times in my life as well as the most joyful and wonderful moments. We are both women of a certain age and it was a question of now or never so we decided today was the day!!!! We had a fab time lots of lovely banter and fun with the tattoo people. We both felt like naughty schoolgirls when we skipped out of the salon and went to celebrate with a Danish pastry and coffee. There comes a time

when we all need to do something mad and reckless and wonderful to feel the power of being alive and mad. Love Joy xx

# COPEES

AND THE HOME FURNISHINGS THAT INSPIRED THEM



CartoonChurch.com

*If you would like to have a notice included please email  
[notices@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk](mailto:notices@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk)*

*Please send notices by 7pm on the preceding Wednesday.*

 **0800 804 8044**  
**DailyHOPE**  
A free phone line of hymns,  
reflections and prayers