

**Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> August 2021**  
**13<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity**

**In the notices this week....**

1. Readings & prayers
2. Church diary
3. Thursday Group update
4. The Joy of Lockdown
5. Benefice Evensong
6. St Mark's Autumn Clean – Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> September
7. Job vacancy at Christian Bookshop
8. Party in the Square - Sun 12<sup>th</sup> September
9. Message from Hertfordshire Welcomes Refugees – Afghanistan
10. Trip to RHS Wisley with Pirton Church
11. Sink blockage debacle - Joy

**Readings for 29<sup>th</sup> August**

James chapter 1 verses 17-end

Mark chapter 7 verses 1-8, 14,15, 21-23



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

ask for prayers of support as they consider innovative ways to replace both their paid youth worker and paid family worker. May God's guidance lead to decisions that lead to easier recruitment and eventual appointments that further the Kingdom of God in Hitchin and around.

We pray for guidance in each of the member churches of

**Churches Together in Hitchin** especially as their church programmes start again in September. We pray that, that we may all go forward, trusting in God and seeking His way.

**From St Mark's Prayer Cycle:-** This week we pray for St Mary's church, congregation, clergy and leaders. We also pray for the Hitchin & Letchworth Foodbank, Food Rescue Hub, Feed Up Warm Up and Christians against Poverty debt help and job club.

**This week please pray for the residents of Spellbrooke, Berkeley Close and Fosman Close**

**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.

**CHURCH DIARY** - links for online services will be sent by email on Saturday morning.

**Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> August** – 8am Holy Communion in church. 10am Holy Communion in church, livestreamed on Zoom and on Youtube later. **Outdoor Sunday School.**

**Coffee** after the service. *Please bring your own cups!*

**6.30pm Parish Evensong** at All Saints, St Paul's Walden led by Ian Todd. Last one - all welcome.

**Monday 30<sup>th</sup> August- Reading & reflection** with Nick on Youtube.

**Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> September – Morning Prayer** in church at 9.15am.

**Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 9.30-11am – Little Lions**

**Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2pm – “Thursday Group”** – see below

**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> September – 8am Holy Communion** in church. **10am Holy Communion** in church, livestreamed to Youtube. **Sunday School & coffee** after the service.

*From September onwards we plan to livestream the service directly onto Youtube, not through Zoom any more. This means that people at home will be able to watch the service but not participate, and those in church will no longer have a screen at the front of church, just a small camera. Our Wednesday Morning Prayer service will also only take place in church, not online on Zoom any more.*

*In the event that new covid restrictions need to be introduced, we will of course consider bringing back participation via Zoom.*

*From the beginning of September we will again be providing printed copies of the readings in church.*

*This week our friends without computers will receive a copy of the sermon given by Nick on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> August.*

## CHURCH & COMMUNITY NEWS

**UPDATE ON THURSDAY GROUP** - I am pleased to confirm the return of Thursday Group meetings from September. After discussions with members during August it was decided to change the day and time of our meetings. In future we will be meeting in the church hall on the **1st Friday of each month at 2pm** and finishing by 4.30 pm.



Our first meeting will be on **3rd September**. This will be a social get together with refreshments and a discussion about our group name. All are welcome, for further information contact Val via [admin@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk](mailto:admin@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk)

**THE JOY OF LOCKDOWN** – Joy has published a selection of her weekly Church newsletter musings, with illustrations also by Joy. It costs £5.99 a copy and profits will be split between St Mark's and Guide Dogs. You can order directly from Joy via [admin@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk](mailto:admin@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk)

**PARISH EVENSONG** – the final Parish Evensong will take place this Sunday, 6.30pm at All Saints church, St Paul's Walden, with Ian Todd preaching. All welcome.



**PUT THE DATE IN YOUR DIARY - AUTUMN CLEAN** – we're planning a Church cleaning day on **Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> September, 10am-3pm**. If you can come along for an hour or two it would be much appreciated – many hands make light work! Coffee and cake will be provided!

**JOB VACANCY - The Christian Bookshop**, 69 Leys Avenue, Letchworth Garden City is looking for a **Trainee SALES ASSISTANT** to start September 2021

6.25 Hours per week on Saturdays. National minimum wage applicable

There may be occasional extra hours to cover absences

For Job description and application form email [cbstaylor69@gmail.com](mailto:cbstaylor69@gmail.com)

Closing date: 1 SEPTEMBER 2021

For further details contact: Chris Foster on tel. 07909591875



**PARTY IN THE SQUARE Sunday Sept 12<sup>th</sup> 11.30am - 3.30 pm**. The Party in the Square is an annual event in Hitchin run by Churches Together - an afternoon of free fun, live music, a free barbecue, and to connect with people from all our local churches. Beginning with a time of worship and sharing stories at 11.30, the afternoon then runs from 12.15-3.30, including a performance from the St Mary's Choir 1.10-1.50. Two stalls are asking for donations: St Faiths are running a cake stall and would love to receive small/individual cakes that can be given out to people on the day. Also, there will be a stall to donate harvest produce and supplies that Feed Up Warm Up will donate to those in need locally after the event. And - pray for good weather - thank you!!

## **AFGHANISTAN**

Most of you will have seen the distressing images and news from Afghanistan recently and may have been wondering what you can do. Churches Together in Hitchin has circulated this message from Hertfordshire Welcomes Refugees which makes some interesting points and suggests some actions we can take:-

### ***Message from Veronica Raymond on behalf of Hertfordshire Welcomes Refugees***

*We at HWR have been deeply upset by the situation in Afghanistan. We are pleased that the government has committed to taking 20,000 refugees, and we hope that Hertfordshire will take its fair share of the 20,000.*

*We are aware that Hertfordshire is hosting Afghan refugees in temporary accommodation (currently hotels) and that many groups are collecting items to help them. This is only temporary accommodation and these families are likely to be moved out of Hertfordshire fairly quickly. We are working with the East of England Strategic Migration Partnership, Red Cross and other organisations to respond to their needs. We have already made one delivery of goods. As there are so many collections going on at the moment, we do not want to duplicate and overwhelm the hotels but we will help to coordinate.*

*We will be posting regular updates on our website and social media about how we are responding and how you can support us.*

*In the meantime, if you would like to help, please consider taking some of the following actions:*

1. Write to your local councillor and your council leads to ask and encourage them to accept Afghan refugees in your area under one of the government's resettlement programmes. You can find out who your councillor is and how to contact them here:

<https://www.gov.uk/find-your-local-councillors>

2. Make a donation to Herts Welcomes Refugees:

<https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/charityweb/charity/finalCharityHomepage.action?charityId=1016803>

Please mark your donation **Afghan Appeal**

3. Help us to find appropriate accommodation and philanthropic landlords to resettle families in Hertfordshire. One of the key reasons that only three councils in Hertfordshire (at present only Three Rivers, Welwyn Hatfield and Dacorum) have said they would accept Afghan refugees is due to the lack of accommodation. If Hertfordshire is to resettle families, we need philanthropic landlords to come forward and offer affordable housing. Please ask your networks and faith groups. If you do know of any houses that can be rented to refugees, please contact us and we can put you in touch with the appropriate person in your local council.

4. Donate a mobile phone and SIM card. One of the priority emerging needs are good phones that are wiped clean and have SIM cards with at least £20 credit, that can be easily topped up. Many have arrived without phones which means they cannot communicate with their families and others. Please let us know if you can provide and deliver one to us.

If you are not yet a member of Herts Welcomes Refugees, you can sign up via our website: <https://www.hwsf.org.uk/get-involved.html>

*We will continue to update you and as always appreciate your support.*

**Visit to RHS Wisley, Sat 18<sup>th</sup> Sept** – the Friends of Pirton Church have arranged a coach trip to RHS Wisley on 18<sup>th</sup> Sept at a cost of £23.00 per person which covers the coach, entrance to Wisley and a small contribution to Pirton Church. There are still places available, on a first come first served basis. For more details contact Graham Gibbs on [graham.m.gibbs@btinternet.com](mailto:graham.m.gibbs@btinternet.com) or 07836 288973 or see [here](#).

### **Sink blockage debacle**



Hi all don't you just love plumbing issues, especially the little ones that would seem so easy to fix! Well, as you can imagine it was all my fault that the waste disposal unit became blocked this afternoon and despite my gallant efforts blocked it remained. The Husband arrived home, on his fiery steed, in the "I can fix anything" man mode, excellent, my handsome prince comes to the rescue NOT!!!! The Husband had his head stuck under the sink for about 2 hours, wielding various implements, plungers and the like and unscrewing this and that, prodding and poking things but failing to relieve the blockage. The major "catastrophes" occurred when his bucket under the sink outlet to collect the drainage was immediately tipped back down the sink and gushed out all

over the floor in the absence of the bucket and due to his failing of reconnecting the U bend bits. Domestic bliss is as wonderful as silence is golden. So while his mopping and cursing was going on I took to re-varnishing my nails - what else can a girl do? Joy x

*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.*

