

## Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2022

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Epiphany

1. Readings & prayers
2. Church diary
3. Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
4. Living in Love and Faith course details
5. Thanks for Harvest Appeal
6. Hitchin Theological Society meeting – Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> Jan
7. Youth & children's worker vacancy at Christchurch
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10. Lost & Found
11. Verger's Store Cupboard cartoon
12. 2022 – Joy

#### Readings for 16<sup>th</sup> January

1 Corinthians chapter 12 verses 1-11

John chapter 2 verses 1-11



**PRAYERS:- From Churches Together in Hitchin Our Lady's Roman Catholic Church** ask that we pray for their young people who this month begin their programme of preparation for the sacrament of confirmation and for those children on the First Holy Communion Programme who will be receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time this month.

We give thanks for the preaching exchanges taking place this Sunday and next to mark the **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**, praying that these may bring rich blessing to each congregation and all the ministers.

**From St Mark's Prayer Cycle:-** We pray for Churches Together in Hitchin. We also pray this week for people living with mental health issues, learning difficulties and special educational needs. **This week please pray for the residents of Old Hale Way, Brampton Park Road & Balmoral Road.**

#### CHURCH DIARY

Links for online services will be sent by email on Saturday morning.

**Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> January - 10am All Age Service** in church. **11.15am Simple Communion** in church and livestreamed.

**6.30pm CTH Theological Society** meeting at St Mary's – see details below.

*Due to the increase in Covid 19 we are currently required to wear face coverings in church and there will be no refreshments served between the services this week.*

**Monday 17<sup>th</sup> January – Reading & reflection** with John on Youtube.

**Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> January – 9.15am Morning Prayer** in church

**Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> January – 7.30pm DCC meeting**

**Friday 21<sup>st</sup> January – 9.30am Little Lions**

**Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> January – 8am Communion** in church. **10am Communion** in church and livestreamed on Youtube. Our preacher will be Chris Bunce.

**HALL DIARY** – *these are the non-church groups hiring the hall.*

**Monday 17<sup>th</sup>** – Signing Groups 8.30am-1pm

**Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup>** – Jo Jingles 9.30am-12.30pm; Rainbows 5-6pm; Antenatal Yoga 7-9pm

**Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup>** – Home Education Hub 11am – 4.15pm; Yoga 5.15-7pm

**Thursday 20<sup>th</sup>** – Childminders Support group 9.30-11.30am; Dorothy Wells Violin Group 4-5.30pm

**Friday 21<sup>st</sup>** – Funeral service in church 11.30-1pm

**Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup>** – Diocesan group in hall & church 6-9.30pm

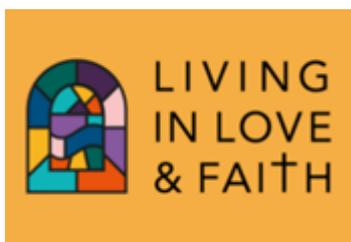
*This week our friends without computers will receive a copy of the sermon given by Nick on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> January.*

## **CHURCH & COMMUNITY NEWS**

**WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY** – in 2022 will take place between 18<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> January. For material for personal prayers please see this link [Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2022 \(ctbi.org.uk\)](http://www.ctbi.org.uk)

Locally there will be preaching exchanges on 16<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> January:- Nick will be visiting St Faith's on 16<sup>th</sup>; John Richardson will be preaching at Christchurch on 23<sup>rd</sup> and Chris Bunce will be preaching at St Mark's on 23<sup>rd</sup>.

We are also all invited to Churches Together in Hertfordshire Prayer Together in an online event at 7.30 pm on **Tuesday the 25<sup>th</sup> January**. The Rt Revd Michael Beasley, Bishop of Hertford, will lead a short service of prayer and there will be contributions from other church leaders from across the churches in Hertfordshire. More details will follow next week.



### **LIVING IN LOVE AND FAITH**

Dear St Mark's family, before Christmas we introduced the Living in Love and Faith course to you. This course is an important opportunity for us to learn and grow together in our understanding of issues of sexuality and gender identity, and how they relate to our Christian faith. These issues are

important for us all, and I am excited at the prospect of learning together as a church.

The course will run fortnightly on Thursday evenings from **Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> of February**. We will gather to share a simple supper (covid permitting), before starting the session. Precise time TBC, but probably the session will start at around 7.30pm. We are requesting a £5 donation to cover the cost of the course booklets (BUT do speak to Nick or Trish if this will be difficult for you...your presence is far more important to us than the money!).

Please note: you don't need to be academically minded, or to have experience thinking about these issues: the course is suitable for anyone at all, with resources available to suit everyone. The important thing is to be willing to turn up with an open mind and listen.

If you'd like to sign up you can do so at the welcome table at the back of church, or by emailing/calling Nick to let him know.

We look forward to learning with you about how we can live in love and faith with one another.

**BISHOP OF ST ALBANS' HARVEST APPEAL** Thanks to all who contributed to the Bishop of St Albans' which this year had the theme 'Water is Life' and supported clean water projects in the Democratic Republic of Congo. The total raised was £288.38, an amount that will make a difference to many lives in that country.

#### **CHURCHES TOGETHER IN HITCHIN THEOLOGICAL SOCIETY**

The fourth meeting of the Theological Society will take place on **Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> January, 6.30-7.30 pm** in St Mary's Church. Its theme is *Diversity in Unity* and speakers from different Christian traditions, including Nick, our Vicar, will look at our various approaches to faith, asking whether/how we can disagree in a kindly way and remain in fellowship with each other. All are welcome - we have had good attendances at the meetings so far and look forward to another worthwhile meeting. Further details available from Charmaine Sabey-Corkindale - 01462 435497.

**YOUTH & CHILDREN'S WORKER VACANCY** – Christchurch in Hitchin are looking for a Youth & Children's worker, salary £22-26,000. They would consider part-time or job share arrangements. To apply, please email [admin@christchurchhitchin.org.uk](mailto:admin@christchurchhitchin.org.uk) for job description, person profile and application form. Alternatively visit [www.christchurchhitchin.org.uk](http://www.christchurchhitchin.org.uk) to see a video, read relevant documents and download application form.

**THANK YOU** to those who have already contributed to the costs of repairing our wooden cross. If anyone would like to donate you can now do so by clicking on the Donate button on the St Mark's website [www.stmarks-hitchin.org.uk](http://www.stmarks-hitchin.org.uk) and selecting the Cross option. If donations exceed the cost of repairs the excess will be added to the general fund. We have also had unexpected costs for clearing the drains, due to roots growing into the drains. This will come out of our general funds, so if anyone feels able to donate towards this please do give via the general St Mark's fund. Thank you.

**ROTAS** – I shall soon be preparing the February – May rotas for the various aspects of our Sunday services and church work which keep our church life running smoothly. If anyone would like to get involved in St Mark's in any way please do get in touch with me as soon as possible – there are plenty of varied opportunities, from helping with the children's work; welcoming people to services; cleaning the church; reading or leading prayers; serving coffee; helping to serve communion and joining the gardening team. Contact Maggie on [admin@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk](mailto:admin@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk)

**LOST & FOUND** - in the process of tidying up the big cupboard at the back of church we came across a small CD player buried in some dressing up clothes, and a bag with a whole

set of Charles Dickens paperbacks. Does anyone know who they belong to please? Contact Maggie, as above.

# THE VERGER'S STORE CUPBOARD

THE CONTENTS ARE ARRANGED ALPHABETICALLY FOR EASE OF ACCESS



CartoonChurch.com

**2022** So here we are at the start of another New Year. Let's hope it will be a happy, safe and kind one to us all. New challenges may be? New chapters to write in the book of our lives? New chances to be grabbed and changes to be addressed. On the subject of changes, dare I mention the dreaded 3 words "New Year's Resolutions"? Yes, I make the same ones every year and yes, by the end week 2 of January or week 3, if I really try they are all forgotten about.

Lose the rapidly gained Christmas indulgence weight. Be more adventurous in the catering department ie use more of my extensive range of gourmet cook books rather than "old faithful" the dog eared, food stained, much loved and very sellotaped M&S one. Finally, really try to do more piano practise Marco (my teacher) deserves more commitment on my part bless him.

On the exercise thing I am fed up of seeing pictures of people dressed in their lycra kits pretending they desperately need to shed pounds with no visible sign of anything even slightly resembling a tiny bulge let alone a spare tyre type growth. The one and only time I enrolled in a gym membership 99.9 % of folk were like that. I felt daunted and the duration of my membership must have been one of the shortest lived of all time. I left feeling very

red faced and hot and bothered and that was nothing to do with me going to get changed in the Men's room!!!! That is a completely different story!!!!  
Happy New Year to you all. Love 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.*