



St Mary's Church Hitchin, Hertfordshire



www.stmaryshitchin.co.uk

Sunday 3rd December 2017 Advent Sunday

Welcome to St Mary's. If you are a newcomer please introduce yourself to one of the clergy or fill in and hand to one of us the detachable section of our Welcome Bookmark. Do come and join us for coffee in Church House (opposite the North Door) after the 9.35am service.

The Collect

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and to put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility; that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

8.00am – Holy Communion (BCP)

President: The Revd Melanie Crowley

9.35am – Sung Communion

Ruth and Naomi



President:	The Revd Fizz Gibbs
Preacher:	Belinda Copson
Setting:	Rutter
Processional Hymn:	327 Awake, awake: fling off the night! – Deus Tuorum Militum
Seekers' Song:	Advent wreath (see service sheet)
Lesson Reading:	Ruth 1 read by Sarah Frith
Gradual:	Advent Prose (see page 4)
Gospel Reading:	Luke 1:26-38 read by The Revd Dan Drew

Please take your bulletin home

Prayers are led by: Brenda Wiseman
Offertory Hymn: **45** O Come, O come Emmanuel – Veni Emmanuel
Anthem: The Bells of waiting Advent ring (see page 5)
Communion Hymn: **30** Come, thou long expected Jesus – Cross of Jesus
Recessional Hymn: **38** Hark, a thrilling voice is sounding - Merton

11.15am Storyteller Service

Led by: The Revd Fizz Gibbs

6:30pm O Come, Emmanuel – Alan Bullard

Officiant: Canon Michael Roden
Organist: Stanley Carter
Readings: Ecclesiasticus 24:1-9 *read by Trevor Groom*
Exodus 3:1-6 *read by Jo Lanham*
Isaiah 11:1-4a *read by Robin Sternberg*
Isaiah 22:21b-23 *read by Esta Norton*
Numbers 24:15-17 *read by Leslie Mustoe*
Jeremiah 10:6-7 *read by Aaron Powell*
Matthew 1:18-23 *read by Lesley Davies*
Revelation 22:12-13,16-17, 20 *read by Canon Michael Roden*

St Mary's Choir Concert in Church.

St Mary's Choir will be giving a 45 mins free Lunchtime Christmas Concert on Saturday 9th December at 1:05pm. Do take a break from the retail therapy and come along to hear some favourite carols and Christmas music - stay for the whole concert or just pop in for a few minutes. Our thanks to Keith Hoskins & Hitchin Initiative for their help in arranging this event.



Prayers for people

We pray for all who are ill, and by name for: Thomas Fox, Michael Taylor, Neville Glindon, Chris Parkinson, Bette Woodward, Gill Shinkins, Fiona Manning, Margaret Tait, Lewis, Brian Castle, Adrian Hinksman, Margaret Bishop, Suzie Bloom, Fraser Pincock, Helen Cotton, Mary Brenchley, John & Margaret Lysons, Margaret Clarke, Mavis Bird, Paul Darley, Tokoni, Marjorie Weedon, Emma Lacy, Charlotte Sabey-Corkindale.

...and we pray for all who love and care for them.

We pray for church members at home or in residential care: Colin Atkinson, Sheila Axtens, Charlie Boydon, Joan Burton, Jill Eve, Craig Hamil, Cameron Harrison, Peggy Hine, Geoff Ingram, Judith Kent, Hanna King, Joan King, Janet Kipping, Irene Meek, José Perry, Lona Pope, Bill Shinn, Peter Stevens, Mark Vincent, Ron & Bertha Walters.

...and we pray for all who love and care for them.

We also pray for: Anne, Pam Barber, Margaret Beddard, Dorothy Chamberlain, Richard Drury, Jean Harris, Helen, Brian Jones, Emily Kilby, Alan Lawson, Steven Marvell, Angela McNally, Jonathan McNally, Cynthia Myers, Agnes Emmanuel Odiachi, Sally Thompson, Bob Turney, Charlotte Wales.

...and we pray for all who love and care for them.

We remember before God those who have died: Adrian Davy, Margaret Gregory, Julian Bedingfield, Terence Hatchett, Richard Pope, Denys Graebe, Elizabeth Cruttenden, David Everest, Anita Down, Janice Forward.

...and we pray for those who mourn.

Prayers for the World Church

As Zimbabwe adjusts to the change of President, let us pray for the ongoing witness of the churches in the 5 Anglican Dioceses there. In particular we pray for an end to the neglect of water supplies which problem the churches are now addressing. They are finding modern technology, the internet and the involvement of local people is making a difference. New pumps and boreholes are being installed. Let us pray for a new sense of purpose and hope as much needed development takes place.

Advent Prose



Pour down, O hea-vens from a- bove, and let the skies rain down right-cous- ness

Choir: Pour down, O heavens from above and let the skies rain down righteousness.

*Choir: Turn your fierce anger from us, O Lord,
and remember not our sins for ever.
Your holy cities have become a desert,
Zion a wilderness, Jerusalem a desolation;
our holy and beautiful house, where our fathers praised you.*

All: Pour down, O heavens from above and let the skies rain down righteousness.

*Choir: We have sinned and become like one who is unclean;
we have all withered like a leaf,
and our iniquities like the wind have swept us away.
You have hidden your face from us
and abandoned us to our iniquities.*

All: Pour down, O heavens from above and let the skies rain down righteousness.

*Choir: You are my witnesses, says the Lord,
and my servant whom I have chosen,
that you may know me and believe me.
I myself am the Lord and none but I can deliver;
what my hand holds none can snatch away.*

All: Pour down, O heavens from above and let the skies rain down righteousness.

*Choir: Comfort my people, comfort them;
my salvation shall not be delayed.
I have swept your offences away like a cloud;
fear not, for I will save you.*

All: Pour down, O heavens from above and let the skies rain down righteousness.

ed. Stephen Cleobury

Sung Communion Anthem

The bells of waiting Advent ring – arr. David Iliff

The bells of waiting Advent ring,
a song in winter's darkest night;
yet listen to the tale they tell -
earth waits for Christ from glory
bright.

Sing to the mighty Father God,
whose love enshrines his majesty;
there is no darkness where he reigns
and light above all light is he.

And all who trust him and obey
will find when Jesus comes again
that they are heirs to that bright
place,
God's realm of glory, their domain!

Now to the holy Three-in-One
we sing our praises loud and long;
and wait with winter's Advent bells
to welcome Christ in Christmas song.

Words: Paul Wigmore

Tune: Agincourt



Future Events

5th December 12.30pm **Mothers' Union Christmas lunch** at The Sun Hotel.

8th Dec 12noon **Fish and Chip lunch** in Church House - the last one before Christmas. Please arrive at 12 noon to put in your order, Cost £5.50 everyone welcome.

9th Dec 1.05pm **St Mary's Choir Concert** in Church. See notice on page 2

9th-10th Dec 12noon-6pm **The 21st Hitchin Christmas Tree Festival** at Holy Saviour - admission £4, accompanied children free. Come and see the display of 50 trees. Refreshments available.

On 9th Dec, 10.30am-11.30am, the festival will be open for disabled visitors and their carers who may prefer a quieter time to enjoy the display.

8th Dec 6.30pm-9pm - the weekend begins with the Festival Preview Evening and Concert (7.45pm). Mulled wine and light refreshments included! Tickets £12 from ☎ 712212 or toryevans@greatgreen.plus.uk
www.facebook.com/HitchinChristmasTreeFestival/

10th Dec 4:30pm **Carols in the Market Place** led by Churches Together in Hitchin preceded by a Lantern Parade organised by Rotary, leaving St Mary's at 4pm. The carols will be introduced by John Maguire, the newly-appointed Chair of Churches Together in Hitchin, and the Revd Jane Robson, and will be accompanied by Hitchin Band. All welcome - bring friends and neighbours with you! Further details from John Richardson ☎ 07505 426876.

16th Dec 7:30pm **Christmas Concert** by North Herts Guild of Singers in Church. There will be traditional carols for choir and audience plus Mr. Fezziwig's Christmas Party by Rathbone and O Magnum Mysterium by Lauridsen. The choir will be accompanied by organ and the Chameleon Arts Ensemble. Conductor Stephen Bullamore. Tickets £12, £8(fte) from Hitchin Initiative, David's Bookshop Letchworth or www.nhgs.org.uk

21st Dec 8pm **St Mary's Wives' Group AGM & Christmas Social** in Church House. Carols, Secret Santa & Games. Refreshments – please bring a plate of savoury or sweet pick-up foods. Please come and join us. Everyone welcome, including husbands, partners and friends. *Brenda Wiseman*



Notices

We would be very grateful to receive donations for flowers at Christmas. There are 'flower donation boxes' on the end of the pews nearest the north and south doors. We would also love to hear from anybody who would like to help with the arranging, please call Margaret on 07960 811177

The family of Julian Bedingfield would like to thank everyone for their prayers and good wishes at this very difficult time. They have been much appreciated.

Future bulletins: Due to the closure of Church House over the Christmas period, the bulletin published on 17th December will cover three Sundays: 17th, 24th & 31st December. Please send any notices for this period by Wednesday 13th December at the very latest. *Tracy Watson*

Welcoming Visitors to St Mary's The Church Council took some decisions about this on 21 November. Many other issues were covered too. There are a few copies of the minutes at the back of church and I would be pleased to e mail them to you on request. *Sylvia Burns* jd.burns@btinternet.com

St Mary's Gift Day Appeal: Thank you to the new, established, and anonymous donors who supported this appeal. We have received a total of £5720, but there's still time to contribute if you would like to as we will keep it open for the next week. *The Churchwardens.*

Hitchin Foodbank: The most urgent need is for tinned potatoes; dried potatoes; tinned milk and shampoo.

In the five weeks leading up to Christmas they will be providing Christmas food parcels and would like donations of tinned ham; Christmas Puddings; Christmas Cake; boxes of biscuits; 150/200g bars of chocolate; snacks & nibbles (eg peanuts); Christmas Crackers.

Please ensure these items are undamaged and in date. There is a collection point in church and also at both Waitrose and Sainsbury's. Further information can be found at letchworth.foodbank.org.uk *Thank you for your continuing contributions.*

Forthcoming Services

Morning Prayer (9:05am) is said on Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays. The Prayer Group meets on the first and third Saturdays of each month at 10am in church

Tuesday 5 th December	10am 2pm	Mothers' Union Corporate Communion Holy Communion at Milford Lodge
Wednesday 6 th December	1:30pm	Holy Communion at Elmside
Thursday 7 th December	12.15pm	Holy Communion with prayers for healing
Sunday 10 th December <i>The Second Sunday of Advent</i>	8am 9:35am 11.15am 3:30pm 6:30pm	Holy Communion (BCP) Sung Communion with Baptism Holy Communion (BCP) Baptisms Choral Evensong
Monday 11 th December	10am	Holy Communion at Westbourne Care Home
Tuesday 12 th December	10am	Holy Communion
Thursday 14 th December	12.15pm	Holy Communion
Sunday 17 th December <i>The Third Sunday of Advent</i>	8am 9:35am 11.15am 6:30pm	Holy Communion (BCP) Service of the Word with Nativity Play Holy Communion (BCP) Evening Prayer

Readings for 10th December:

Morning Services: Isaiah 40:1-11; Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13; 2 Peter 3:8-15a; Mark 1-8

Evening Service: Psalm 40; 1 Kings 22:1-28; Romans 15:4-13



St Mary's Contacts

- Team Rector and Vicar – Canon Michael Roden ☎ 452758 in the first instance, otherwise ☎ 434017. Please send all mail to Church House. Michael's day off is Wednesday.
- Part-time Curate – The Revd Dan Drew ☎ 07738 553264
- Parish Office ☎ 452758 email: hitchinparishoffice@btinternet.com
- Team Rector's Secretary - Dorothy Grieves ☎ 432951
- Churchwardens – Derry Charman ☎420665, Warwick Wiggen ☎674172, Anne Senechal ☎641745
- Director of Music – Alan Childs☎ 01582 883420
email: a.j.childs@btinternet.com
- Verger – Andrew Rogers ☎ 07824 363472 Andrew's days off are Wednesday & Thursday. For access on these days and outside normal hours please contact a Churchwarden.
- Home Communion Requests: Pauline Sadler ☎ 636265
- St Mary's Facebook Page:
<http://www.facebook.com/StMarysChurchHitchin>
- *All contacts are published monthly in the Bulletin Supplement.*



St Mary's, through its **Charitable Giving Group**, supports AquAid Lifeline Fund's **Philip Veale Children's Centre** in Malawi caring for over 150 orphans in Gomani. AquAid can provide a whole month's child care for just £10. Ask Robin Sternberg ☎ 684588 for more details.



All communicant members of the Christian Church are welcome to receive the bread and the wine at a celebration of Holy Communion. Others are welcome at the altar rail to receive a blessing. If you wish for a blessing please ask.



For very young churchgoers: Please feel free to be in church during the services. There is a children's area supplied with toys which you are welcome to use.

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Details of future notices are needed by Wednesday and should be sent by email to stmarys.bulletin.hitchin@gmail.com or, if this is not possible left in the "Bulletin Editor" pigeon hole at Church House.

The e-bulletin If you wish to be included in the email distribution of this bulletin, please send an email as above. Tracy Watson