



# St Mary's Church Hitchin, Hertfordshire



[www.stmaryshitchin.co.uk](http://www.stmaryshitchin.co.uk)

## Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2018 The Third Sunday of Advent

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*

**God for whom we watch and wait,  
you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of your Son:  
give us courage to speak the truth,  
to hunger for justice,  
and to suffer for the cause of right,  
with Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### **8.00am – Holy Communion (BCP)**

President: The Revd Dan Drew

### **10.00am – Service of the Word with Seekers' Nativity Play**

Officiant: The Revd Hilary Oakley  
Processional Hymn: **46** On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry – Winchester New  
Lesson Readings: Zephaniah 3:14-end *read by Cole Tanner*  
Philippians 4:4-7 *read by Imogen Ryden*  
Hymn: Advent Wreath – The Holly and the Ivy  
Offertory Hymn: **818** To God be the glory – To God be the glory  
Anthem: Advent Wonder - Lantz  
Prayers are led by: Members of Seekers and our Training Choir  
Recessional Hymn: **75** Long ago, prophets knew – Personent Hodie

## 6:30pm – Evening Prayer

Officiant & Preacher: Andrew Parr  
Responses: Said  
Psalm: 50:1-6  
Old Testament Lesson: Isaiah 35 *read by Jimmy Dawson*  
Canticles: Said  
New Testament Lesson: Luke 1:57-66

## Forthcoming Services

The Prayer Group will meet on the second and fourth Saturdays in December at 10am in church.

|  |                                    |  |
|--|------------------------------------|--|
| Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> December  | 10am                               | Holy Communion<br>Celebrant: The Revd Fizz Gibbs                         |
| Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> December                                       | 12:15pm                            | Holy Communion<br>Celebrant: The Revd Dan Drew                           |
| Sunday 23 <sup>rd</sup> December<br><i>The Fourth Sunday of Advent</i>   | 8am<br>9:35am<br>11:15am<br>6:30pm | Holy Communion (BCP)<br>Sung Communion<br>Mattins<br>Sung Compline       |
| Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> December<br><i>Christmas Eve</i>                 | 4pm<br>7pm<br>11:30pm              | Crib Service<br>Nine Lessons and Carols<br>Midnight Mass of the Nativity |
| Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup> December<br><i>Christmas Day</i>                | 8am<br>10am                        | Holy Communion<br>Festival Communion                                     |
| Sunday 30 <sup>th</sup> December<br><i>The First Sunday of Christmas</i> | 9:35am                             | Sung Communion   |

### Readings for 23<sup>rd</sup> December

Morning Services: Micah 5:2-5a; Magnificat; Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-45.  
Evening Service: Psalm 123; Isaiah 10:33-11:10; Matthew 1:18-end.



## Prayers for people

**We pray for all who are ill, and by name for:** Christine Cadney, Ron & Bertha Walters, Susan Moriarty, Cherry Thurstan, George Rainbow, Christopher Smith, Sarah, Jack Suslak, Sophie, Ewa Maria Beurskens, Noah, Ron Vickers, Bob West, Glynis Rogers, Heide, Dorothy Chamberlain, Hayley Robinson, Sarah & Chris Parkinson, Margaret Bishop, Fraser Pincock, Margaret Clarke, Paul Darley, Tokoni, Emma Lacy.

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

**We pray for church members at home or in residential care:** Mavis Bird, Charlie Boydon, Helen Cotton, Jill Eve, Craig Hamil, Jean Harris, Mary Hayes, Hanna King, Janet Kipping, John Lee, Margaret Lysons, José Perry, Lona Pope, Bill Shinn, Margaret Tait, Mark Vincent.

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

**We also pray for:** Pam Barber, Margaret Beddard, Mary Brenchley, Bridget, Brigitte, Helen, Brian Jones, Lewis, Michael Mansie, Angela McNally, Monika.

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

**We pray for those suffering addiction of any kind.**

**We remember before you O God, those who have died:** Cynthia Myers, Jean White, Father Michael Lambert, Elizabeth Brown, Peter Steadman.

**...and we pray for those who mourn.**

## Prayers for the World Church

Christians in Turkey have united for a landmark development in ecumenical unity with the publication in English of a book of doctrine endorsed by the country's major denominations. The book was originally released in 2015 by the Bible Society of Turkey, and more recently this year in its English edition in Istanbul. Let us pray for the growing unity this book promotes.



## Future Events

19<sup>th</sup> Dec 8pm **Hitchin Market Place Carol Singing** organised by Hitchin Priory Rotary Club with St Mary's Choir and Hitchin Town Band.

20<sup>th</sup> Dec 7:30pm for 8pm **Wives' Group AGM and Christmas Social** in Church House. Please bring a plate of either sweet or savoury snacks to share. Secret Santa to the value of £5. As this will be our last meeting we warmly invite previous Wives' Group members to join us for this celebration of 60 years of fellowship and fun. *Brenda Wiseman*

22<sup>nd</sup> Dec 7:30pm **Carols for Audience and Choir Concert** in Church by North Herts Guild of Singers. Tickets £14/£8 students from David's Bookshop, Hitchin Initiative, [www.nhgs.org.uk](http://www.nhgs.org.uk) or ☎01462 790210 or 01438 861185

9<sup>th</sup> Feb 2019 10am-4pm **Quiet Day "Light in our Darkness –The way of St. Benedict"** led by Reverend Terrance Bell of Offley at The Fokalare Centre Welwyn Garden City £10 pp. Please complete the list at the back of Church if you wish to come.



## 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

**Future bulletins:** Due to the closure of Church House over the Christmas period, the bulletin published on 23<sup>rd</sup> December will cover three Sundays: 23<sup>rd</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> December, and 6<sup>th</sup> January. Please send any notices for this period by Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> December at the very latest. *Tracy Watson*

Christmas Services: No photographs or filming of children during services please!

As many of our special Christmas services involve children, just a reminder that we ask that there is **no photography or filming of children during services please**. This is in line with safeguarding good practice as well as to ensure that everyone can enjoy the service. Thank you for your understanding.

**Lesson readers and front row choristers - a thank you** Huge thanks to the whole lesson reader team for their assistance at so many services all through the year to give a wide range of voices in our worship. Also a special thank you to our front row choristers, who have been enthusiastic participants in readings! This year we have at least one young chorister reading a lesson at every main Sunday service through Advent and at some of our special Christmas services too. Some of our choristers are new to this task and have been practising hard, we are so pleased to have them on the team!

New lesson readers, of all ages, are always welcome. *Belinda Copson*

**Choir Concert** The choir would like to thank all those who supported its fund-raising lunchtime concert on 8 December. Aided by mulled wine and mince pies, the audience kindly donated a total of £330 for use in covering routine expenditure and towards the costs of the planned visit to St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle on the weekend of 31<sup>st</sup> August/1<sup>st</sup> September 2019. *Ed Kisby*

**A coach has been booked** to take members of the congregation to **the Induction of Michael as a canon of Bristol Cathedral** on Saturday 12th January 2019. Cost £15 if we fill the bus. Please sign the list at the back of church to book a seat. *The Churchwardens*

**Conservation Management Plan for the Church of St Mary's in the historic town of Hitchin, Hertfordshire.**

This 161 page document has been in preparation since 2009. It is now nearly complete. A draft copy was presented to our Rector at his last service here. Members of the congregation can access a copy via Dropbox by contacting Tony Read [read@benslow.com](mailto:read@benslow.com)

There are separate sections in the report on;

The location and setting of the church

The church and the community

Description of the buildings and site

The earliest evidence for Christianity in Hitchin and the Minster

The DCC will study the draft prior to completion

Our **St Mary's Christmas Cards** for 2018 should have reached all the Hitchin homes which receive the Comet, but we know that many people (for instance in flats and care homes) are beyond the Comet's reach, and many St Mary's people live outside Hitchin. As we have plenty of spare cards, could you therefore please help yourselves to the spare cards at the back of church if you can deliver them to any such places. We'd also like volunteers to take them to town centre shops and offices, leaving small batches, with permission, on counters or other suitable positions.

**Sidespeople and Stewards wanted!** If you have a few hours to spare the Churchwardens would love to hear from you, as we want some new recruits for the team which provides our sidespeople, and also Stewards to help welcome visitors to St Mary's. Training and support will be given. We would especially like anyone who is able to attend the services on Christmas eve to contact us as soon as possible. Thank you, *The Churchwardens*

**Homeless Support in North Herts** The problem of rough sleepers is growing across the country. Cold weather provision has been made for local Hostels and extra places are available. Information from the authorities in North Hertfordshire about who to contact if you need advice has been given to St Mary's and a copy will be kept in Church. There is an out of hours contact at NHDC ☎ 420600. More information is available online [www.streetlink.org.uk](http://www.streetlink.org.uk) *The Churchwardens*

**Father Michael Lambert:** The funeral arrangements for Father Michael are as follows:

Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> December - 4.30pm Reception of his body at Our Lady's, 5pm Mass, 6pm Celebration and tributes with refreshments in the church hall

Monday 17<sup>th</sup> December - 11am Requiem Mass followed by refreshments, 1pm Burial at St John's Cemetery and back for refreshments

Everyone is welcome to any part of this celebration of Father Michael's life.

**The normal Parish Office (Church House) telephone number** is temporarily unavailable. If trying to contact the Parish Office, please use ☎432951

**Somewhere to go this Christmas** will be hosted by Walsworth Road, Baptist Church. Join them for Christmas food, festive fun and good company. Christmas Day: 11am-5pm, Boxing Day: 10am-4pm and New Year's Day: 10am-4pm. For booking and volunteering contact Barbara Liberty on ☎07752 875608 [Barbara.liberty@btinternet.com](mailto:Barbara.liberty@btinternet.com)

## Two Networks

We are members of two networks of like-minded churches. They both act as resources sharing each other's ideas and examples of how to thrive in our communities. We have small groups within St Mary's to represent each of these groups to us, and us to them.



**Inclusive Church** reminds us that we are all children of God. It helps us think about how we welcome all-comers to our church and encourages us to include everyone in what we do as a church - regardless of physical or mental health, wealth or poverty, race or sexuality.

We all aspire to act without prejudice, but sometimes we need reminding what it means to feel like an outsider, or to be slowed down by disability.

To learn more, go to [www.inclusive-church.org.uk](http://www.inclusive-church.org.uk) or talk to Belinda Copson, 01462 431816, [bcopson39@gmail.com](mailto:bcopson39@gmail.com)

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**HeartEdge** is a growing network mainly of town-centre churches, started in 2016 by St Martin-in-the Fields.

Its focus is on sharing ways to enrich congregational life with compassionate outreach, cultural expressions of faith, and commercial enterprise, all integrated into the abundant life of a thriving church. Several of us have been to their National Conference at Lambeth Palace.

Among many other good things, it issues an ideas-packed online Monthly Mailer.

For more details, ask Robin Sternberg 01462 684588 [robinwendysternberg@gmail.com](mailto:robinwendysternberg@gmail.com) or go to [www.heartedge.org](http://www.heartedge.org)



# St Mary's Contacts

- Team Rector and Vicar – Vacant
- Part-time Curate – The Revd Dan Drew ☎ 07738 553264
- Other Clergy: The Revd Fizz Gibbs, The Revd Hilary Oakley
- Acting Team Rector: The Revd Jane Mainwaring
- Parish Office ☎432951 email: hitchinparishoffice@btinternet.com
- Team Rector's Secretary - Dorothy Grieves ☎ 432951
- Churchwardens – Warwick Wigger ☎674172, Anne Senechal ☎641745, Elizabeth Cranfield ☎423948
- Director of Music – Alan Childs☎ 01582 883420 email: a.j.childs@btinternet.com
- Verger – Dawn Cope dawnjoycope@gmail.com Dawn's days off are Wednesday & Thursday. For access on these days and outside normal hours please contact a Churchwarden.
- Home Communion Requests: Pauline Sadler ☎ 434350
- St Mary's Facebook Page:  
[www.facebook.com/StMarysChurchHitchin](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](mailto: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