



St Mary's Church Hitchin, Hertfordshire



www.stmaryshitchin.co.uk

Sunday 9th December 2018 The Second 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

**O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power and come among us,
and with great might succour us;
that whereas, through our sins and wickedness
we are grievously hindered
in running the race that is set before us,
your bountiful grace and mercy
may speedily help and deliver us;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit,
be honour and glory, now and for ever. Amen**

8.00am – Holy Communion (BCP)

President: The Revd Melanie Crowley

9:35am – Sung Communion

President & Preacher: The Revd Dan Drew
Setting: Rutter
Processional Hymn: **38** Hark, a thrilling voice is sounding – Merton
Seekers' Song: Advent Wreath (see service sheet)
Lesson Readings: Malachi 3:1-4 *read by Benjamin Powell*
Philippians 1:3-11 *read by Julian Rowland*
Gradual: Advent Prose (see page 4)
Gospel: Luke 3:1-6 *read by Belinda Copson*
Prayers are led by: Michael Taylor
Offertory Hymn: **721** Love divine, all loves excelling - Blaenwern
Anthem: Celtic Advent Carol – Angerman & Barrett

Communion Hymn: **392** Bless the Lord, the God of Israel – Hope Park
Final Hymn: **39** Hills of the North, rejoice – Little Cornard

11:15am – Holy Communion (BCP)

President & Preacher: The Revd Dan Drew
Introit: **38** Hark, a thrilling voice is sounding – Merton
Offertory Hymn: **721** Love divine, all loves excelling - Blaenwern
Final Hymn: **39** Hills of the North, rejoice – Little Cornard

6:30pm – Choral Evensong

Officiant & Preacher: The Revd Fizz Gibbs
Introit: The Cherry Tree Carol - arr. Willcocks
Processional Hymn: **55** When the King shall come again – St John Damascene
Responses: Ebdon
Psalm: 75
Old Testament Lesson: Isaiah 40:1-11 *read by Mike Steele*
Office Hymn: **44** O Child of promise, come! – St Thomas
Canticles: Noble in B minor
New Testament Lesson: Luke 1:1-25
Anthem: Never weather-beaten sail – Wood (words below)
Offertory Hymn: **54** Wake, O wake! With tidings thrilling – Wachuset Auf

Never weather-beaten sail – Charles Wood (1866-1926)

Never weather-beaten sail more willing bent to shore,
never tired pilgrim's limbs affected slumber more;
than my weary sprite now longs to fly
out of my troubled breast.

O come quickly, come quickly sweetest Lord,
and take my soul to rest!

Ever blooming are the joys of Heaven's high Paradise,
cold age deafs not there our ears, nor vapour dims our eyes;
glory there the sun outshines;
whose beams the blessed only see.
O come quickly, come quickly, glorious Lord,
and raise my sprite to thee!

Words: Thomas Campion (1567-1620)



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

Let us pray for peace in South Sudan, and for the Christian Aid partners working there to help communities forge a flourishing future despite the ongoing conflict. Let us give thanks for the prophetic voice of churches in the South Sudan Council of Churches as they walk the long road of reconciliation.

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



Future Events

TODAY 9th Dec 4pm **Carols in the Market Place** presented by Churches Together in Hitchin. **Please note this event will begin at 4pm, not 4:30pm as previously advertised.**

13th Dec 12:15pm **Mothers' Union Christmas Lunch** at The Sun.

14th Dec 12noon **Fish and Chip Lunch** in Church House. Please arrive by 12 noon to place your order, cost £5.50. Everyone is welcome.

15th Dec 2:30pm & 4:15pm **Hitchin Chamber Orchestra "Christmas Family Concert"** in Church. Featuring the Choirs of The Priory School. Seasonal refreshments will be served between the two concerts. Tickets £5 Adults, £3 Children, £13 Family ticket, Under 5s free, from Eventbrite or Hitchin Initiative.

16th Dec 12:30pm **St Mary's Christmas Lunch** at Benslow Music. It would be lovely to have your company and if you wish to attend please complete the list at the back of Church. Cost £20.

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

20th 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*

22nd 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 or ☎01462 790210 or 01438 861185



Notices

There will be a Memorial Service for Cynthia Myers in Church on Monday 10th December at 2:30pm.

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 23rd December will cover three Sundays: 23rd & 30th December, and 6th January. Please send any notices for this period by Wednesday 19th December at the very latest. *Tracy Watson*

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

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

Monday 17th 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.

Our Lady's is especially keen for people to share their memories of him or pay a tribute to him on the Sunday evening. If you would like to do so, please contact Trish Bonnett on 📞 459126 or 07801 752141 so that she can draw up an order for the evening.

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 01462 420600. More information is available online www.streetlink.org.uk *The Churchwardens*

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

Our **St Mary's Christmas Cards** for 2018 have been delivered in the past few days to homes in Hitchin. However, we have plenty of spare cards and would like you to help yourselves from the back of church, in case the Comet does not reach you, and for all your friends and neighbours. We'd also ask volunteers to take them to town centre shops and offices, leaving small batches, with permission, on counters or other suitable positions.

The District Church Council met on 20th November and there is a copy of the minutes on the table at the back of the church. I would be pleased to email them to you on request to jd.burns@btinternet.com *Sylvia Burns*

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

Mission Direct, the international volunteering charity based in Burymead Road, Hitchin wishes to appoint a Data and Logistics Officer. Duties will include maintaining the charity's database, processing financial transactions, booking flights and being prepared to help generally with the organisation's work. Full details on www.missiondirect.org.uk/staff-vacancy/data-logistics-officer/

Forthcoming Services

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

Monday 10 th December	2:30pm	Memorial Service for Cynthia Myers RIP
Tuesday 11 th December	10am	Holy Communion Celebrant: The Revd Fizz Gibbs
Thursday 13 th December	12:15pm	Holy Communion Celebrant: The Revd Dan Drew
Sunday 16 th December <i>The Third Sunday of Advent</i>	8am 10am 6:30pm	Holy Communion (BCP) Service of the Word with Seeker's Nativity Play (<i>NB Note time</i>) Evening Prayer
Tuesday 18 th December	10am	Holy Communion Celebrant: The Revd Fizz Gibbs
Thursday 20 th December	12:15pm	Holy Communion Celebrant: The Revd Dan Drew
Sunday 23 rd December <i>The Fourth Sunday of Advent</i>	8am 9:35am 11:15am 6:30pm	Holy Communion (BCP) Sung Communion Mattins Sung Compline

Readings for 16th December

Morning Services: Zephaniah 3:14-end; Psalm 146:4-end; Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:7-18.

Evening Service: Psalm 50:1-6; Isaiah 35; Luke 1:57-66.



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
- *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