

St Faith's Parish Church, Hitchin

Sunday 2nd December 2018

Advent Sunday



Welcome to St Faith's. If this is your first visit, please make yourself known to Melanie, the Vicar.

Today's worship

9.30 am Holy Communion with Sunday School groups
11.30 am Morning Prayer

Today's hymns

Opening: 37 Hark, what a sound
Gradual: 30 Come, thou long-expected Jesus
Offertory: 41 Lo, he comes with clouds descending
Anthem: *Adam lay Ybounden* (Peter Warlock)
Communion: 56 Word of justice
Concluding: 28 Come and see the shining light

Today's Readings

Jeremiah 33. 14-16
1 Thessalonians 3. 9-end
Luke 21. 25-36

For your prayers this week

The sick: Anna Coyle, Theresa Ronewicz, Sylvia and Philip Rutt, Margaret White, Rachel Merrill, Nicholas Slack, Emma Lacy, Dennis Webb, Valerie Rounden, Helen, Matthew Rainbow, Nicola Eversley, Christa Howe, Doug and Jan Woodward, Harvey Jeal (junior), Anne, Pamela Fernandez, Mark Edwards, Tracey Copley, Joyce Britton, Chris Ackroyd.

In loving memory for December: Samuel Street, Alec Lloyd, Geoffrey Turner, Peggy Newton, Michael Garnett, David Kitching, Vera Kitching, Kathleen Foster, Donald Turner, Dorothy Brenchley, Lillian Cook, Irene Lloyd.

St Faith's and the community: those living in Cubitt Close, Holden Close, Ivatt Court, Mermaid Close. At St Faith's: those community groups who use the church and side rooms.

Hitchin Prayer link: The Bishop of Hertford is visiting **the Hub Church** today for baptisms, re-affirmation of baptism by full immersion and confirmations. We pray for all candidates as they embark on this amazing next step of their faith journey. Similarly we join with **Tilehouse Street Baptist Church** in giving thanks to God for the joy of a baptism and the five people coming into membership at their morning service today. We pray for the Nativity Festival at **St Ippolyts Parish Church** and that the display of cribs may be an inspiration to all who visit. We also hold in our prayers all involved in 'Messy St Mark's' being held this coming Thursday at Oughton School. **Holy Saviour Church** ask us to join them in prayer for another successful Christmas Tree Festival next weekend

World Church Prayer: We pray for peaceful alternatives to violence. Dear God, teach us the way of peace, not a peace that is frail and feeble, but is strong and firm and brave: a healing of wounds, a building of new understanding, and always generous. Amen.

Notices

Christmas Flowers: There will be a basket at the back of church for the next 3 weeks if you would like to contribute towards the flowers in Church. Perhaps you have a loved one you would like to remember at this special time. Thank you, Joan

Stotfold Christian Choir: The Stotfold Christian Choir will be putting on an evening of Christian music and readings on Tuesday, 4th December 2018 at 7.30 pm at Stotfold Methodist Church. Refreshments will be provided!

Thursday Fellowship: The last meeting of the year is on Thursday 13th December at 2.30 pm when we are having a Bring and Share Christmas Party. We hope other members of the congregation will

join us and if you would like to come please give Elizabeth Hill your name.

Carols in the Market Place: Churches Together in Hitchin is presenting Carols in the Market Place on Sunday 9th December at 4.00 pm. Traditional carols will be led by the Rev Donald Smith of Built on Faith Church, the new Chair of Churches Together, and the Rev Jane Robson of Tilehouse Street Baptist Church, with Hitchin Community Brass providing the accompaniment. All are welcome - bring friends with you!

Somewhere to Go this Christmas: "Somewhere to Go" will be hosted by Walsworth Road Baptist Church. Join us for Christmas food, festive fun and good company. Christmas Day: 11.00 am - 5.00 pm; Boxing Day: 10.00 am - 4.00 pm; New Year's Day: 10.00 am - 4.00 pm. For booking and volunteering please contact Barbara Liberty on 07752 875608 - barbara.liberty@btinternet.com

Christmas Jumper Fayre - Thank you! - A great many of us, plus husbands and friends, have had a busy few weeks preparing for our final major FUNdraising event of 2018. It was all worthwhile as the Christmas Jumper Fayre raised the fantastic amount of £1,688.94 ! St Faith's was a sight to behold, with gold tinsel hung across the beam, lights galore, Christmas Jumper friezes on the walls and jumpers on the pillars. Everyone wore their Christmas jumpers, from the sophisticated to the silly. Many visitors wore their jumpers too, ready to claim a free cuppa! We were entertained all day by Tim playing Christmas medleys, with Hannah managing to sing in the morning, despite her back problems. There was a lovely welcoming atmosphere, which many visitors commented on. Thank you so much to everyone involved in any way; running and helping on stalls - several people stepped in when original stall organisers were unable to attend - providing prizes, knitting, cake making, counting money, the list is endless. Special thanks are due to the small heavy moving teams during that week, including Robin Gardner, Tim Goose, Ed Fordham and David Webb. This included collecting and returning tables to Holy Saviour Church. Above all, our thanks go to all those from our local community and beyond who came to the Fayre, despite the 4-way traffic lights, and joined us in a day of friendship, fellowship and fundraising.

Christmas Tree Festival Preview Evening and Concert - Friday 7th December, 6.30 pm-9.00 pm (concert 7.45 pm) Holy Saviour Church Tickets £12 from 01462 712212 mulled wine and light refreshments included! Be among the first to enjoy the delightful display of decorated trees, before a concert of seasonal music. Pam Rhodes, popular writer and broadcaster, will comper the concert, which this year will feature festive music with a distinct twist of jazz!.

The Hitchin Christmas Tree Festival 2018 - Saturday 8th and Sunday 9th December - Holy Saviour Church, 12 noon to 6.00 pm, admission £4.00, accompanied children free. Come and see the display of beautifully decorated trees in a lovely setting, with seasonal music from local musicians and choirs. Excellent home cooked lunches and teas available. On Saturday morning 10.30 am- 11.30 am, the Festival will be open for disabled visitors and their carers, who may prefer a quieter time to enjoy the display. Further information from ctf@holysaviourhitchin.org.uk and Facebook: Hitchin Christmas Tree Festival.

This week:

Monday 7.15 pm - 8.30 pm Choir Practice
Tuesday: 12 noon MU Christmas lunch at The Sun Hotel;
8.00 pm PCC meeting at St Mark's
Wednesday 9.30 am Holy Communion
Thursday 9.30 am - 11.00 am Small Talk Toddler group
Saturday: 10.00 am- 12 noon Coffee morning

Next Sunday: 2nd Sunday of Advent

9.30 am Holy Communion with Sunday School groups
11.30 am Holy Communion

Contact details:

Team Vicar and Methodist Minister: Rev Melanie Crowley
01462 456842; e-mail: melanie.crowley@btinternet.com

Please send notices for inclusion in the next bulletin (9th December) to Dorothy Grieves by 6.00 pm on Wednesday 5th December. e-mail: dorothy.grieves@ntlworld.com

Website: stfaithshitchin.org.uk