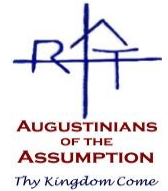


CHURCH OF OUR LADY IMMACULATE AND ST ANDREW

16 Nightingale Road, HITCHIN, SG5 1QS
(In the care of the Augustinians of the Assumption)



Newsletter No 1655

31st October – 7th November 2015 All Saints Day (Year B)



Mass Times Saturday anticipating 6pm Sunday 8.30am, 10.30am and 5pm Monday – Saturday 10am Reconciliation Saturday 10.30am	
Contacts	
Parish Priest Fr Michael Lambert	E-mail: michaellambert@rcdow.org.uk
Fr Tom O'Brien	frtomaa@gmail.com
Fr Euloge Kasine	eulogeka@gmail.com
Pastoral Assistants Trish Bonnett	Tel: 01462 455577 trishbonnett@rcdow.org.uk
Susanna Hawksley	susannahawksley@rcdow.org.uk
Parish Administrator Carol Cooper	Tel: 01462 459126 carolcooper@rcdow.org.uk
Sacramental Eve Krol Administrator	Tel: 01462 455577 hitchincat@rcdow.org.uk
Parish Office Tel: Mobile: Website: E-mail:	01462 459 126 07958 575 442 parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin hitchin@rcdow.org.uk
Parish Safeguarding Representative Trish Bonnett Telephone: 01462 459126 (Parish)	

Diary

Sunday 1st	Coffee Morning – EDAID
Monday 2nd	Parent & Toddler Group Hall 9.30 – 11am
	Meditation Group LCR 12 – 1.30pm
	One World Group AGM LCR 8pm
Tuesday 3rd	Morning Prayer Church 9.30am
	Bethany Club Hall 10.30am
	Eucharistic Service 7.15pm Church
	Sacramental Preparation Hall 8pm
	Union of Catholic Mothers LCR 8pm
	Choir practice 8pm Church
Wednesday 4th	Rosary Group for All (Small babies welcome) Hall 9.30am
	Sacramental Preparation LCR 4.30pm
Thursday 5th	Rosary Church after Mass
	Italian Club Hall 1pm
	Meditation Group Pastoral Office 6.30pm
Friday 6th	Parent & Toddler Group Hall 9.30 – 11am
	Lectio Divina - Pastoral Office 2pm
Saturday 7th	Marriage Preparation Day
Sunday 8th	Coffee Morning – Bereavement Group



If you are going into hospital please take a copy of the leaflet in the church porch and notify the RC Chaplain on **07884 187463** directly, as the Hospital is not able to pass on the information to them. If you are in Pinehill Hospital, please contact the parish directly. When you come out of hospital or if you are ill and housebound please ring the parish office so we can minister to your needs if required.



If you have a need for prayer, please contact Mary on 07759195487 and let her know your prayer intentions.



Readings: Apoc 7:2-4.9-14, 1Jn 3:1-3, Matt 5:1-12

Entrance antiphon: Let us all rejoice in the Lord, as we celebrate the feast day in honour of all the Saints, at whose festival the Angels rejoice and praise the Son of God.

Psalm: **Such are the men who seek your face, O Lord.**

Intercessions: Lord, hear us.....

Response: We rejoice in the Communion of Saints!

Next week: Kings 17:10-16, Heb 9:24-28, Mk 12:38-44



**This week's counting teams:
Sunday Team 7 Monday Team 2**

Proclaim15 Prayer Loving Father, You so loved the world that you sent us your only Son, that we might believe in him and have eternal life. May we encounter Jesus Christ anew this day and live the Good News with joy. Through the power of your Holy Spirit, help us to "go out to the whole world and proclaim" our faith with confidence. Give us the courage to witness to the Joy of the Gospel by our words and actions through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

This Weekend: is a great celebration of the Communion of Saints: those who are living with the Lord and those who are saved and growing in the Lord's love for them. Today we celebrate All Saints. At 3pm: we will have the Blessing of Graves at St John's Cemetery, for anyone who wishes to come along. We will gather at the Grave of Fr Christopher, which is at the bottom of the cemetery next to the road.



If someone close to you has died our Bereavement Team is specially trained to help. You can contact them through the Parish Office on 01462 459126.

There is a Retiring Collection for the **Sick and Retired Priests' Fund** for those of you who are not involved in supporting the "Growing in Faith" project, as you are already doing this through your contributions.

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Sunday coffee mornings 2016. Will all groups / charities who want coffee mornings in 2016 submit their requests (the number you would like and time of year/approx dates) to Carol in Parish Office, preferably by e-mail, to carolcooper@rcdow.org.uk by 9th November latest.

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Offertory Income – an Update from the Finance Committee

The last Offertory appeal was held in the Autumn of 2103 and we agreed to keep you posted on subsequent levels of Offertory income.

In the first full 12 months following the appeal (December 2013 to November 2104) the total Offertory income was **£125,046**. During the most recent 12 months (October 2014 to September 2015) the total Offertory income has fallen to **£120,984**. This suggests the total for the second full 12 months since the appeal is likely to be down on the first 12 months by at least **£5,000** or about **4%** in percentage terms.

The fall-off in Offertory income, which is the main source of income for the day-to-day running of the Parish, is disappointing and, unless there is some improvement, we will need to take the trend into account in setting the Parish Budget for 2016 and beyond.

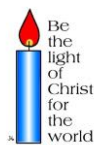
Meanwhile, whilst thanking those of you have kept up your donations made through the Offertory, we would like to take this opportunity to again encourage you to increase your donations, if you are in a position to do so; and to renew your Envelope or Standing Order pledges if they have lapsed.

Details of the income received through the Offertory is posted on the Notice Board in the Porch and, if you have any questions, or would like to sign-up to make your offerings using Envelopes or Standing Orders, please contact David Wilson (davidwilson45@ntlworld.com) or Graham Felton (grahamfelton@ntlworld.com) from the Finance Committee.

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Last call for Cycle Ride money for Phase. If you sponsored the Priests recently can you please give any of the pastoral team the money this weekend. So far £760 has been raised. Thank you for your generosity. See item at end of newsletter about Phase.



Anyone interested in discerning their vocation in the church, please see Fr Tom after Mass.

There is a meeting 2-5pm in London on 8th November in Kensington about this and Fr Tom will be going by train.

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DISABLED CAR PARK SPACES

There has been a recent spate of incidents of the disabled car park spaces being misused, which have caused real problems for disabled people trying to get to Mass or other activities. Parishioners are reminded, therefore, that, regardless of whether the car park is full or not, the disabled spaces in the car park are reserved for the use of disabled parishioners who themselves should, at all times, display their blue Disabled Parking permits. Thank you for your help in supporting the proper use of our car parking spaces.



Date for your Diary

Monday 2 November

Masses at 10am and 7.30pm to pray for the **Holy Souls**, our own relations and friends and those who have died over the past year in our Parish in particular.



Next Sunday 8th November we will be having our **Annual Service of Commemoration** for them at 6.15pm. All are welcome to come along and light a candle too for their own deceased loved ones.

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8pm The One World Group AGM in the Lower Committee Room followed by a talk from a volunteer from 'The Living Room' a local charity which offers therapy and treatment to people suffering from a range of addictions. All are welcome. **Please note the start time which is later than that previously advertised.**

Tuesday 3 November

8pm Next Session on Reconciliation for parents on the Programme, in the Hall.

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8pm UCM A talk on osteoporosis in the Lower Committee Room.

Wednesday 4 November

11am Priests' Deanery Meeting at Baldock starts with a Mass for all the Deceased Priests who have served the area over the years. All are welcome to join in the Mass at 11am, which will be followed by the Meeting with Bishop John, who is presiding the Mass.

Wednesday 4 November

7-8.30pm Faith Formation for Extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion Facilitators: Sr Anne Walsh OP and Karen Marguerite d'Artois OP
The Niland centre, 93 Elstree Rd, Bushey, Hertfordshire WD23 4EE. Please book your place at livingfaith@rcdow.org.uk or call at 0207 931 6078 and leave your name and contact phone no.

Saturday 7 November

9.30 for 10am Marriage Preparation Day for the couples who are preparing to celebrate the Covenant in the coming months. We will pray for them all as they prepare to share their lives together, "till death do them part".

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2pm: we are delighted to welcome **Harry Price** into membership of our Community through the completion of the rites of Baptism. We pray for his parents and god-parents and all taking responsibility for his journey into Faith.

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10am – 2pm Workshop on Communication, Listening Skills, Conflict Management (1) for effective pastoral ministry and personal life.

Facilitator: Fr Malachy Keegan. The Niland centre, 93 Elstree Rd, Bushey, Hertfordshire WD23 4EE. Please book your place at livingfaith@rcdow.org.uk or call at 0207 931 6078 Suggested donation £12.00. Coffee and tea will be provided. Please bring your own lunch.

Future Dates:

Scripture from Scratch series of talks in Central London:

Biblical Models of Discipleship

The recordings of all last year talks from "Scripture from Scratch: A Journey Through the Bible" are available on line at <http://rcdow.org.uk/faith/adult-formation/bible-studies/>.

This year talks will be also voice recorded and made available on line at <http://rcdow.org.uk/faith/adult-formation/bible-studies/>).

Powerpoints and handouts will be also available online.

Location: Vaughan House, 46 Francis Street, SW1P 1QN

Time: 7-8.30pm

Please book your place on line or e-mail to livingfaith@rcdow.org.uk. If you do not have access to the internet, please call 0207 931 6078 and leave your name, contact phone number and the date(s). Suggested donation £4. All talks are audio recorded and uploaded on the rcdow.org.uk website

Mon 9th Nov 2015, Biblical Theology of Vocation by Fr John Hemer

Wed 2nd Dec 2015, Mary as Model Disciple by Brian Purfield

Mon 18th Jan 2016, Isaiah and his teachings as a model of how to respond in faith to changing circumstances by Fr John Hemer

Thu 25th Feb 2016, Peter: Model of Reconciled Disciple by Brian Purfield

Mon 14th Mar 2016, How does Jesus teaching in the parables help us live our vocation? by Fr John Hemer

Tue 12th Apr 2016, Mary Magdalen: The Witnessing Disciple by Brian Purfield

Mon 9th May 2016, Paul: The Missionary Disciple, How Paul helps people live out their Christian vocation in differing circumstances? by Fr John Hemer

Sat 11th June 2016, 10am – 2pm Retreat Day by Brian Purfield

Other Items:

Moses basket with stand going free for any parishioner with a need. Please contact Sarah Pond sarahepond@hotmail.co.uk for details.

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"Free safeguarding training available to all members of the Catholic Community!

The National Catholic Safeguarding Commission (NCSC) has worked with Educare to provide an online, interactive E-Learning safeguarding course which is now available to all in the Catholic Church. If you have a role (voluntary or paid) working with children/adults at risk or have an interest in safeguarding, the online training is a great opportunity to learn how to better protect children/ adults at risk in your care and community. Some of the modules available include: Child Exploitation & Online Safety and Adult Safeguarding. To register please email: safeguardingadmin@rcdow.org.uk with your following details: parish/order/congregation, and your role e.g. parent, catechist leader. For more information please ask **Trish Bonnett**.

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National Justice & Peace Network

is a network of people working at the grassroots for a more just and peaceful world, in the light of the

Gospel and Catholic Social Teaching. It includes diocesan J&P bodies, parish groups, religious orders, national Catholic and ecumenical agencies, families and individuals. **Come and join us and help us to support you!**

Membership is open to all who share our aims and values. We only ask £12 a year, but welcome any extra you can give. **Download a membership form:**http://justice-and-peace.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/A5sizemembership_0011.pdf or contact the Administrator at admin@justice-and-peace.org.uk, Tel 020 7901 4864

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So who is Phase?

Phase was founded by the Churches Together in Hitchin in 2002 and exists to support the development

of wellbeing in young people. Phase aim to enable young people to develop resilience, the ability to cope with the stresses of life, and to live and thrive in today's world.

Phase understands that growing up is full of challenges and hard decisions - whoever you are - and so Phase want to be there for all young people, providing support, encouragement and equipping them for the future.

Phase works across our primary and secondary schools here in Hitchin connecting with over 3000 young people every week. The Phase team consists of 2 full-time staff (Kieran and Paul), 2 part-time staff (Amanda and Donna) and 50 volunteers, who provide help and support in all areas of the organisation from delivering workshops to admin, from church reps to designing the website.

Over the next 4 weeks, we will publish in the newsletter each week a key issue facing young people that Phase are tackling, so that our young people can live life to the full as it says in John 10:10. Each week we include a story, some stats and facts about the issue and also a prayer written by people both young people and adults who have had experience with this issue.

What is the issue? What is self-harm? *Self-harm is a coping behaviour; a physical way of coping with emotional distress. It involves a person deliberately hurting their body in any kind of way in order to relieve difficult emotions.*

Self-harm is something that around 20% of young people struggle with, that's 1 in 5 of all young people – roughly 800 here in Hitchin. It affects girls and boys, those from single parent families and those from stable homes. Phase are passionate about supporting those young people who are struggling with self-harm and want to equip every young person, family member and every member of school staff with understanding, knowledge and the tools to support those who are struggling.

Phase has stepped out in faith and employed Donna Wade, a subject matter expert to lead this work so that young people get the support they need.

Story: Laura is 13 and is year 9 at secondary school. Laura has been struggling for a while but has not previously engaged with any support offered - she finds it really hard to talk to people about how she feels and what is going on in her life. Last term everything got too much for Laura and she took an overdose and ended up in hospital. Eventually Laura returned to school and went straight into a Phase assembly that was all about their 'Let's Talk' video, which you can view via their website. During this assembly Laura was encouraged to talk to someone about how she was feeling, through the video and the stories Laura decided to come forward afterwards to ask for help. She is now about to start a Phase self-harm support group and is starting the brave journey of recovery.

For Phase to deliver these 9 courses, train a team of 10 volunteers and provide on going mentoring to 54 students like Laura, Phase needs to raise £15,000 – a large amount, however, you can help them to do this by donating just £4.

What does £4 buy you? Two small coffees from a shop, a couple of large chocolate bars, 4-5 apps on your phone, a few music singles, a magazine or a newspaper over a couple days. £4 is not much, but what will it buy for Phase? £4 will provide the self-harm support course handbook for a young person, £4 per month provides 1:1 support for a young person going through the struggles of self-harm, or a lesson for 30 young people on how to stay mentally healthy.

Stats on self-harm:

- 10% of young people experience a mental health problem at any given time That is around 400 young people in Hitchin
- Stigma and discrimination are the biggest reasons students like Laura do not access help

If you would like to support this work then it is very easy, you can text: **MAKE05 £5 to 70070** However, the best way to support Phase, to help them make a lasting impact and to see the issue of self-harm in Hitchin decrease is to sign up to become a Phase Partner, £4 per month will provide the support these young people need. See the card attached to newsletter.