

Diocesan Celebration of the 20th Anniversary of Women's Priesthood: Thursday, 13 March at 7.30pm

A service will be held at All Saints' Church, Hertford, on Thursday to mark the 20th anniversary of the ministry of women as priests within the diocese. The Rt Revd Paul Baynes, Bishop of Hertford, will be preaching. All are very welcome to attend but the organisers would like to have a rough idea of numbers, so please let Jane know if you are intending to go, or if you need a lift. (434686 or jane@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk)

Appeal for Wellies and Waterproofs

We are looking for wellies and waterproofs for the recently formed Beaver Colony and Cub Pack which meet at Oughton School so that we can take them on outdoor adventures. If you have any old wellies or waterproofs that your children have outgrown which you could donate to the group, please bring them to church. If you have any questions, please contact me at dcs.hitchinouts@gmail.com or on 433575. Many thanks. *Pippa Lally*

Sainsbury's Active Kids Vouchers

St Mark's Scout Group is once again collecting the Sainsbury's Active Kids Vouchers in order to acquire some new equipment. If you have any vouchers spare, then please bring them to church and add them to the basket at the back (near the mission table). Many thanks.

Please send notices for inclusion in this weekly sheet by 7pm Wed to deirdre.parr@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk or ring Deirdre on 456184

St Mark's extends a warm welcome to newcomers.
If you are new here, please complete and detach this slip and give it to a warden or a sidesperson.

Name

Address

Tel.No.

Email address (if applicable)
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St Mark's Church



A member of Churches Together in Hitchin

9th March 2014

First Sunday of Lent

Readings for today

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

Romans 5:12-19

Matthew 4:1-11



: to be read in church

Services today

8.00am	Holy Communion (p59 in folder)
10.00am	Holy Communion (p59 in folder)

For prayer:

We pray for the people of Ukraine and especially for their government and also for the Russian government that they will seek to find a peaceful resolution to all their troubles.

PLEASE TAKE THESE NOTICES HOME WITH YOU

If you wish to receive this notice sheet via email in future, please send an email to deirdre.parr@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk

website: www.stmarks-hitchin.org.uk



Hymns for 10.00am

56 AMNS	Forty days and forty nights
217 AMNS	Be thou my guardian and my guide
376 MP	Jesus put this song into our hearts
131 MP	Father God, we worship you
746 MP	What a friend we have in Jesus

Diary for the week

Mon 10 March	10.00am	Prayer Group meets at 221 Bedford Rd
Tue 11 March	8.00pm	Adult Confirmation Group begins
Wed 12 March	9.15am	Morning Prayer at the Vicarage No choir practice
Thur 13 March	6.30pm 7.30pm	Group with No Name Lent Groups talk in church

Next Sunday, 16 March – Second Sunday of Lent

8.00am	Holy Communion
10.00am	Family and Parade Service
11.15am	Holy Communion

Notices

Installation of Hall Doors

Work on the installation of our new hall doors will begin at 8am on Wednesday. While evening events can still take place in the church, the hall will be out of use until Friday evening.

Offers of help with Summer Fayre needed TODAY

We have booked the Market Place for the day on 19 July and need lots of help to make our Summer Fayre a success. If you as an individual, or with a group to which you belong, would be willing to help organise and run a stall, **please speak to Linda Sandy in church today.**

Sixth Form Concert at St Mark's, 7.30pm on 23 March

Once again, St Mark's will be providing the venue for final year music students from the three Hitchin secondary schools to perform their examination pieces. Tickets available today in church from Andrew or Deirdre Parr: £3 for adults, £1 for children of 12 or under.

Cake stall in the Market Place on Saturday, 22 March

We shall be having another bumper cake stall on 22 March from 8.30am until we sell out. We would welcome contributions of cakes, preserves etc or, if you're not a cake-maker, money to buy ingredients. If you would like cakes to be collected, please contact Joy Hukin, Linda Sandy or me. Thank you for your continued support of these stalls.
Judy Page

Annual General Meeting 23 March, 11.30am

Our Annual General Meeting is fast approaching and, in preparation for it, there are sheets at the back of church asking for nominations for people to serve on the District Church Council for the next three years, for Churchwardens and for various other roles. Please do take a look and consider whether you might be able to fill one of the roles. Reports and the church accounts will be available in church from today.

AGM Lunch

Following the AGM on 23 March, we would like to invite you to join us for a hot lunch at 12.30pm in the hall. There will be a small charge for the lunch and if people need lifts home at the end of it, that can easily be arranged. If you would like to join us, please sign the list on the newcomers' table at the back of church.

Electoral Roll

The Electoral Roll is our church membership list. We encourage everyone who considers themselves a member of our church family to be on the electoral roll. Being on the roll doesn't commit you to anything; it is just a way of saying that you are part of our church family. If you would like to be on the electoral roll, please pick a form up from church or talk to Jane.

Confirmation Groups start this week

The adult confirmation group, run by Jane Mainwaring and Ian Todd, starts this Tuesday evening and the young people's group, run by Michael Roden, will start on Friday week, 21 March. If you would like more information about either group, about confirmation or would like to come along and join in, please talk to Jane. By joining one of the groups you are not committing yourself to being confirmed. If you would like to explore confirmation but will be unable to make the group, again, please talk to Jane.

St Mark's Lent Appeal 2014 - Syrian refugees

Each year, St Mark's organises a Lent Appeal, an opportunity for each of us to observe the season by self-denial and generosity to others. This year, the proceeds will go to Syrian refugees via Christian Aid's Syria Crisis Appeal. Over six million people have been displaced as a result of the fighting; many are living in cramped and overcrowded conditions in camps within Syria itself and in neighbouring countries. Their plight is desperate and Christian Aid has appealed for money to provide essentials such as food, water containers, hygiene and sanitation kits, emergency shelters and short-term work opportunities, as well as support for those suffering psychologically. Among the refugees are many women and children, often without fathers, and they also include members of the historic Syrian Christian community who have experienced not just the effects of civil war but also persecution because of their faith. Gift envelopes, together with information about the crisis, will be distributed after the service today. If you would like to know more, have a word with Helen or John Richardson - 01462 435595. Thanks in advance for your support.

Sign up for Lent

A number of people have kindly offered to host and lead house and church groups for 4 weeks of Lent. A sign-up sheet is now in church for you to join one. The groups cover the weeks from Monday 17 March to Friday 11 April. This is a good opportunity to meet people from other churches and talk about our Christian faith. The booklet being used this year is *Encounters with Jesus*, based on Luke's gospel. Do ensure you note the address and phone number of the person whose group you have signed up for and, please, put your contact phone number next to your name. Further information from Helen Richardson 01462 435595 or helenwrich@btinternet.com

Lent Meeting: Thursday 13 March 7.30pm at St Mark's

You are invited to a presentation given by the authors of the booklet we are using in this year's Lent groups, Barbara Wood and Claudine McCreadie. They will tell us about *Encounters with Jesus* and how they used it in Churches Together in Kew. Refreshments will be served from 7pm by St Mark's children's club *Group with No Name!!* Further information from Helen Richardson 01462 435595 or helenwrich@btinternet.com

Lent Challenge

It is not too late to sign up for the Diocesan Lent Challenge. It's called *Life Signs* and takes a journey through John's Gospel. It offers an opportunity to take some time each day during Lent to think and pray. You will receive a brief email or text message each day giving you a bible verse, a short reflection, an image and a challenge. For details of how to sign up go to www.livethechallenge.co.uk

Good Friday Workshop: 18 April, 2.30-4.30pm

As we begin Lent, we are planning for the end of Lent when we mark Holy Week. Part of our observance of Holy Week is to hold a Good Friday Workshop for families to come along to, to explore the Easter story through a range of craft activities ending with a short informal service. If you would be willing to help plan this year's Good Friday Workshop please let Jane know by next Sunday, 16 March. All volunteers and ideas are very welcome!

St Mark's Friday Lunch

Following our Silver Survey, there seemed to be a good level of support for a monthly weekday lunch. Therefore, we are launching our 'St Mark's Friday Lunch' on Friday 11 April, with the intention that it will take place on the second Friday of each month from 12.30pm. It will be a hot lunch of soup, main course and pudding. The cost will be £5.00 per person. There is no lower or upper age limit for coming to 'Friday Lunch', so anyone who fancies a lunch and a chance to sit and chat with others is very welcome. As with any new venture, we will be keen to have feedback and comments from people, and we'll adapt as we go along. If you would like to come but need a lift, then please don't let that put you off. Talk to Jane and a lift will be arranged. For this first 'Friday Lunch' it would be very useful to know who is intending to come. Therefore, there is a sheet on the 'welcomers' table at the back of church for people to sign, so we can get a feel for how many we're catering for. We look forward to your company.

A Fairtrade stall will be available on Sunday 23 March. NEW are fairtrade ecological cleaning materials! Easter eggs with the Easter story in the packaging will be on sale too. Catalogues with lots of lovely clothing and household goods will be available to take your orders. Further information Helen Richardson helenwrich@btinternet.com or 435595