

Monthly Food Bank collection next Sunday, 29 March

Food Bank stocks of the following items are very low: powdered milk, sponge puddings and toothpaste. They would be grateful for these and also for the following: instant potato; 250g jars of instant coffee; tinned fish; 250g or 1kg packets of sugar; shampoo; shower gel; deodorant; size 4/5 nappies; strong carrier bags. **Please do not donate the following at the moment:**

pasta or pasta sauces; baked beans; soups; cereals; biscuits; sweets. Their 'shopping list' is updated regularly on the website (last update 25 February)

<http://letchworth.foodbank.org.uk/resources/documents/Our%20work/FOOD-List-2015.pdf> A copy of this list is on the notice board in church. Thank you for your continued and generous support.

Wool and buttons for Sue Andrews Trust and Emily's Star

Thanks to everyone who has responded to Eileen Duckett's appeal for the above. Eileen is happy to go on receiving donations of wool.

Year 13 Concert

Thanks to everyone who came along to support the final year music students from the three Hitchin secondary schools as they performed their examination pieces on 8 March. While not primarily a fund-raising event, the evening did raise £90 to be split between St Mark's and a charity of the students' choice, which has yet to be decided.

How to contact us

While a few telephone numbers of church members may be included in this web version of the notice sheet, most contact details for events are published only in the hard copy, available in church. If you have no access to this, please contact Deirdre Parr on 01462 456184 or e-mail deirdre.parr@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk

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

St Mark's Church



A member of Churches Together in Hitchin

22 March 2015

Fifth Sunday of Lent

Services and events today

8.00am	Holy Communion (p59 in folder)
10.00am	Holy Communion (p59 in folder)
11.30am	Annual General Meeting

Readings for today

Jeremiah 31:31-34
Hebrews 5: 5-10
John 12:20-33

St Mark's extends a warm welcome to newcomers

If you are new here, do introduce yourself to Jane, our Vicar, or Jeni, our Curate, who will be at the back of the church at the end of the service.

PLEASE TAKE THESE NOTICES HOME WITH YOU

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

website: www.stmarks-hitchin.org.uk



Hymns for 10.00am

AMNS 224	Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us
SF 10	I, the Lord of sea and sky
AMNS 70	It is a thing most wonderful
AMNS 248	O my Saviour, lifted
AMNS 235	O Jesus, I have promised

Diary for the week beginning Monday 23 March

Tue 24	7.15pm	Pastoral and Bereavement Groups meet
Wed 25	9.15am	Morning Prayer
	7.00pm	Choir Practice
Thur 26	6.30pm	Group With No Name
	7.45pm	2Confused
Fri 27	12.30pm	Church lunch
Sat 28	2-4pm	Easter Craft workshop (see notice)

Next Sunday, 29 March – Palm Sunday

8.00am	Holy Communion
9.40am	Palm Sunday procession (see 'Easter Services')
10.00am	Holy Communion

Suggestions for prayer

Please remember in your prayers:

Those named in our Prayer Request book and also on the Prayer Tree in church.

From Churches Together in Hitchin Prayer Link:

We join with **Walsworth Road Baptist Church** as they pray for the work and the workers of PHASE as exciting developments for the future are taking shape.

Notices

Cake Sale

Thanks to everyone who helped by baking or serving on the stall on 14th. We raised £165.

Easter lilies

Only 2 weeks to Easter! Once again, I am collecting names of loved ones and donations for the Easter lilies. Please give donations to Jane or a welcomer if I am not available. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

Ann Wakefield

Craft Workshop at St Mark's: Saturday, 28 March 2 to 4pm

An afternoon of making Easter decorations and cards. £5 per person to cover materials. Please give names to Helen Richardson or Val Chamberlain.

What's on at St Mark's – April/May/June

If you didn't get your copy last week, the quarterly sheet listing events for the next three months is still available from the Welcomers' table.

Good Friday Workshop 3 April, 2.30-4.30pm

This is an afternoon aimed at helping all the family encounter the Easter Story. We begin with an hour of craft activities linked to the events of Holy Week and Easter and follow this by a short and very informal service, finishing with hot cross buns and drinks. It is an event where the whole family can join in and everyone is welcome. We simply ask for a £2 donation per child to help cover the cost of the craft activities.

Resources needed for the Good Friday Workshop

We are in need of big-eyed needles (ideally plastic), small jam jars, yogurt pots, and the cardboard tube from toilet rolls or kitchen towels. Items can be left at the back of church or given to Jane.

Electoral Roll

The Electoral Roll is our church membership list. We encourage everybody 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 up a form from the back of church or talk to Jane. **Please return your form by Easter Sunday, 5 April.**

Keeping St Mark's clean, tidy and shipshape!

A big 'thank you' to everyone who mucks in and helps clean, garden, mend and tidy things in St Mark's. Keeping us in good order needs to be a joint effort as we have no paid caretaker, cleaner, gardener or maintenance person. So thank you for all that goes on and if you see things that need doing e.g. children's corner tidying after a Sunday morning, table clearing away, bin emptying etc, please don't be shy of mucking in! If you are being helpful by disposing of the used paper towels from the toilets, please make sure these go in the purple bin in the Vicarage drive as, unfortunately, they can no longer be recycled in the brown bin or the blue box. Thank you.

St Mark's Away Morning: Saturday 25 April 9.30am-12noon

If you haven't already signed up for our away-morning at Walsworth Road Baptist Church, don't forget to do so! Crèche facilities and lifts are available. If you'd like to join us for lunch at The Angels afterwards, you'll find menus and food prices at www.mcmullens.co.uk/angels List at the back of church to sign or email Jane at jane@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk

General Election meeting

Churches Together in Hitchin is organising a meeting for General Election candidates on Wednesday 22 April, 7.30pm at Christchurch. This will be an opportunity to hear their policies and their answers to questions put by church members. There will be more details nearer the time but if you are interested in asking a question, please contact John Richardson on 01462 435595.

5th Hitchin Scout Group Needs You!

Do you have a few hours a week and could you help manage the running of St Mark's Scout Group? If so, we'd love to have a chat! Our Group Scout Leader (GSL) will shortly be standing down and we urgently need to find a replacement for this vital role. The GSL does not run activities for our young people, but is welcome to come and lend a hand, of course. Instead, the GSL looks after the behind-the-scenes running of 5th Hitchin, liaising with the other groups in the town and ensuring that the group is well run and resourced. Feel free to come and have a chat with one of the leaders after church if you think that this role may suit you and we can talk about what it entails in more detail.

Joanne Hughes, Mark Lally, Rachel Drury, Sandra Stokes and Peter Watson

St Mark's Lent Appeal 2015 – GADRA (see Mission notice board)

This year, our Lent Appeal is in aid of the Grahamstown Area Distress Relief Association (GADRA) which carries out community and educational work in this city in the Eastern Cape Province of South Africa. For over 50 years, GADRA has served the poor in the community. It continues to do so in practical ways - empowering people with disabilities, ensuring food security, supporting small businesses - and now includes the provision of scholarships for education that can break the cycle of poverty. Full details are on the GADRA websites:

<http://www.gadra.co.za/> and <http://www.gadraeducation.co.za/> and also from Finn McQuaid, a member of our congregation (thanks to Jeni, our curate!) who was born and educated in Grahamstown and whose parents still live there. Gift envelopes are available and you are invited to use these to make contributions - cash and cheques (payable to St Mark's Parish Church) are welcome and the envelopes can be placed in the offertory bags or given to Jane, a churchwarden or Helen and John Richardson. If you are able to gift aid your contribution, that would be great. Thanks as ever for your generous support.

Easter Services

Sunday 29 March – Palm Sunday

- 8.00am Holy Communion (said)
- 9.40am Palm Sunday Procession leaving from opposite BP Garage on Bedford Road and proceeding round Wellingham Ave
- 10.00am Palm Sunday Holy Communion

Holy Week

- Mon 30 Mar 8.00pm Compline
- Tue 31 Mar 8.00pm Compline
- Wed 1 April 8.00pm Compline
- Thur 2 April 8.00pm Maundy Thursday Iona-style Communion
- Fri 3 April – 9.30am Service of Prayer and Reflection
Good Friday 10.00am Leave from St Mark's to join CTH Walk of Witness
- 10.30am Gather in Bancroft Gardens for Walk of Witness followed by service in the Market Place
- 2.30pm Good Friday Family Workshop (see notice sheet for details)
- Sat 4 April 9.00pm Joint Easter Vigil with St Faith's at St Mark's

Sunday 5 April - Easter Day

- 8.00am Holy Communion (said)
- 10.00am Easter Sunday Family Communion