

## Lent Challenge 2016: 'Generosity, Joy, Imagination and Courage'

Once again, the diocese is running its online Lent Challenge. To receive a daily email with a Bible verse and a short thought for each day during Lent, sign up at

<http://www.stalbans.anglican.org/faith/live-the-challenge/>

### Collecting Active Kids vouchers

Once again, St Mark's uniformed groups are collecting Sainsbury's Active Kids vouchers and would be grateful for any you can donate. Please either hand them to Mark Lally or Rachel Drury or leave them in the box at the back of church.

### St Mark's Cake Stall in the Market Place: 12 March, 8.30am to 1pm

We'd like to make this another bumper St Mark's cake stall with lots of your lovely cakes to sell, please. Help on the day will also be needed. Please speak to Judy Page if you are able to offer some time on 12 March.

### Receiving the news sheet by email or submitting notices

If you would like either to receive this news sheet via email in future or would like to have a notice included in the next news sheet, please email [deirdre.parr@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk](mailto:deirdre.parr@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk) or ring 456184.

***Please send notices for inclusion in the news sheet by 7pm on Wed evening***

### 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](mailto:deirdre.parr@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk)

# St Mark's Church



A member of Churches Together in Hitchin

**14 February 2016**

**First Sunday of Lent**

**Services and events today**

8.00am	Holy Communion (p59 in folder)
10.00am	Holy Communion (p59 in folder)
6.45pm	Youth Alpha

### Readings for today

Deuteronomy 26:1-11
Romans 10:8b-13
Luke 4:1-13

### 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. Please also feel free to take and fill in one of the newcomers' cards which you'll find on the Welcomers' table near the entrance to the hall.

**PLEASE TAKE THESE NOTICES HOME WITH YOU**

[www.stmarks-hitchin.org.uk](http://www.stmarks-hitchin.org.uk)



**Follow us on Twitter: @stmarkshitchin**

### Hymns for 10.00am

AMNS 120	O Jesu, King most wonderful (vv 6-10 only)
AMNS 97	Father of heaven, whose love profound
AMNS 224	Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us
MP 590	Seek ye first the kingdom of God
SF 12	Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?

### Diary for the week beginning Monday 15 February

Mon 15	2.30pm	Prayer Group meets
	8.00pm	An hour of prayer in church
Wed 17	9.15am	Morning Prayer
	7.00pm	Choir Practice
Fri 19	9.30am	Little Lions
Sat 20	9.45am	Exploring Christianity Group

### Hall bookings – Thursday 18 to Saturday 20 February

Thur 18	9.30-11.30am	Monkey Club
	6.30-9.30pm	Buzzworks meeting
Fri 19	9.00-11.30am	Little Lions
Sat 20	9.45-11.30am	Exploring Christianity Group

### Next Sunday, 21 February – Second Sunday of Lent

8.00am	Holy Communion
10.00am	Family Service
11.15am	Holy Communion
6.45pm	Youth Alpha

### Suggestions for prayer

#### From our Cycle of Prayer we pray for:

Wardens, treasurer, secretaries, welcomers, and those on the taxi rota; Social Services; Burford Way, Carling Place, Rivermead

**From the Churches Together in Hitchin Prayer Link, we pray for: Tilehouse Street Baptist Church** as they grow nearer to calling a new minister.

**The CTH Lent Study Groups** starting this week.

Those members of **Our Lady's Roman Catholic Church** who are preparing to be baptised or received into their Church at Easter. The **Youth Alpha** course involving young people from **St Mark's** and **The Hub Church**.

### Notices

#### Traidcraft Stall: Today, at the back of the church

New spring catalogues now available.

#### An Hour of Prayer: tomorrow evening at 8.00pm in church

We are holding this hour of prayer in church to pray for all those in our church family or otherwise known to us who are facing challenging times. If you are unable to join us in church, you might like to pray at home during this time. During the hour, there will be time for quiet but also some led prayers, readings and a few quiet hymns. An outline of the hour can be found on the notice board at the back of church.

#### Prayer Group

The regular Prayer Group, which aims to meet fortnightly, next meets tomorrow, 15 February, at 5 Westmill Lane. All are welcome. For more information, please contact Clare Redd.

#### Thursday Group: 3 March 7.45 for 8pm start in the church hall

Kieran Murphy will give a presentation about the work of *Phase*. This is a Hitchin Christian Charity that works with children and young people offering support and help with emotional and physical problems. They go into schools and provide a valuable opportunity for students to know they are not alone in their struggles with issues such as bullying, eating disorders or self-harming. All welcome. Visitors £3 including refreshments.

**Val Conetta**

**St Mark's Church Hitchin Lent Appeal 2016**  
**Rapid Response Fund for refugees arriving on Greek Islands**

Last September, the sight of the body of a small refugee child washed up on a beach sent shock waves round the world and there were urgent appeals for help.

Among those who responded was the Anglican mission agency **Us** (formerly the United Society for the Propagation of the Gospel) which used its Rapid Response Fund to send money to Christian organisations on Greek islands. Working together, these Anglican, Greek Orthodox and Salvation Army groups provide food, drink and shelter for those who arrive after an often perilous journey. The groups also give comfort to those who have lost loved ones, including children, when boats have capsized

Sadly this tragic crisis continues. Refugees from Syria, Afghanistan and other countries still attempt the crossing from Turkey to Greece and their needs are as urgent as ever. It is a complex situation involving people-smugglers, local populations and tourists who have mixed reactions to these 'visitors', and governments who want to move the problem on to their neighbours. Local churches there are offering much-needed help and hope in a desperate situation.

More details can be found in a moving address given by Father Malcolm Bradshaw of the Anglican Diocese in Europe to the Church of England General Synod – <https://vimeo.com/146918684>

If you are able to help, please put cash or a cheque (payable to St Mark's Parish Church) in the Lent Appeal gift envelope – gift aided if possible. Place this in the offertory bag, or give it to the Vicar, a churchwarden or John Richardson between now and Easter. If you would like to know more, have a word with John in church or on 01462 435595 or 07505 426876

Many thanks for your generosity.

**Phoenix Cards**

Phoenix Cards catalogues are at the back of church today. Do help yourself if you would like to take a look. Please return the catalogue with or without an order to Jane, Deena Jenkins or Clare Banham by 19 February. 10% of all orders will go the church.

**Triangle Community Garden**

This organisation, which runs projects for adults with learning difficulties, is one of the local charities which the DCC has chosen to support this year through our Mission Giving. You can find out more about it and sign up to receive e-bulletins at [www.trianglegarden.org](http://www.trianglegarden.org)

**Wear a green heart on your sleeve**

CAFOD, the Catholic development charity, has joined with the Climate Coalition to present an imaginative campaign for Valentine's Day or, indeed, any time of the year.

Green hearts, given to us by Our Lady's Church, are available in church today and full details of the campaign can be found at <http://cafod.org.uk/Campaign/One-Climate-One-World/Make-a-heart>