

Church Flowers

If anyone has a special request for flowers (e.g. to mark an anniversary or celebrate a family event), please contact Diane Porter or Joy Hukin. Diane and Joy are also the people the flower team should contact when they need the church key.

Hall bookings

Maggie Mellersh is now looking after the hall bookings. If you would like to book the hall or need to check availability, please contact Maggie at maggie.mellersh@phonecoop.coop or ring her on 01462 504003.

Foodbank collection: 24 April

If you wish to donate to next Sunday's Foodbank collection, the following are the items which are most urgently needed: tea bags; pasta sauce; sponge puddings; biscuits; tinned fruit. Please note that toilet rolls are not required at present. Thank you for your continuing support.

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 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

St Mark's Church



A member of Churches Together in Hitchin

17 April 2016

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Services and events today

8.00am	Holy Communion (p29 in folder)
10.00am	Family Service (p5 in folder)
11.15am	Holy Communion (p29 in folder)

Readings for today

Acts 9: 36-43
Revelation 7: 9-17
John 10: 22-30

St Mark's extends a warm welcome to newcomers

If you are new here, do introduce yourself to our Curate, Jeni. 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



Follow us on Twitter: [@stmarkshitchin](https://twitter.com/stmarkshitchin)

Hymns for 10.00am

Song sheet	Light of the world
MP 179	Go, tell it on the mountain
MP31	Amazing grace
MP 590	Seek ye first the kingdom of God
MP 631	Tell out my soul

Diary for the week beginning Monday 18 April

Mon 18	2.30pm	Prayer Group meets at 231 Bedford Road
Wed 20	9.15am	Morning Prayer
	7.00pm	Choir Practice
	8.15pm	Standing Committee meets
Fri 22	12.30pm	Church Lunch
Sat 23	2-5pm	Games afternoon

Hall bookings – Thursday 21 to Saturday 23 April

Thur 21	9.00-11.30am	Monkey Club
	6.30-8.00pm	Group With No Name
Fri 22	12noon-2.30pm	Church Lunch
	7.30-9.00pm	Exercise class
Sat 23	1.30-5.30pm	Games afternoon

Next Sunday, 24 April – St Mark's Day

8.00am	Holy Communion
10.00am	Holy Communion
5.00pm	Confirmation Group starts. Venue: St Mary's
6.30pm	Taizé Service

From our Cycle of Prayer we pray for:

Our cleaners, gardener, flower arrangers, all who make refreshments and all who maintain the church building;
Hitchin Street Angels;
Firs Close, Maxwells Path, Frank Young Court, Willow Tree Way.

From the Churches Together in Hitchin Prayer Link, we pray for:

The **Church of God of Prophecy** as they prepare for their outreach weekend at the end of this week;

PHASE as their trustees meet later this week to look at the vision and strategy for PHASE for the next 2 years. May God guide their thoughts, conversations and decisions.

Notices

St Mark's Games Afternoon: next Saturday, 23 April, 2.00-5.00pm

Slot Stock Car Racing – "Scalextric with Attitude"

Challenge yourselves in the church with the car racing or join in board games in the hall, or a do bit of both! Something for all ages to enjoy – from Bananagrams to Buckaroo, Cluedo to Connect 4, or bring along your own favourite board game! Also Giant Draughts and Dominoes, and a 'Quiet Corner' for Scrabble or something more sedate. Refreshments available throughout the afternoon.

St Mark's Day Taizé Service: next Sunday, 24 April at 6.30pm

Once again, we are inviting other churches to join us as we celebrate our Patronal Festival with a Taizé-style service. If you can help with refreshments after the service by providing some biscuits or cake and/or serving tea and coffee, please sign the list at the back of church today or let Andrew or Judy know.

Confirmation Group

Our team confirmation group will be meeting on Sunday afternoons at 5pm at St Mary's, starting on 24 April. If you'd like to join in with the group, please let Jane know. If you'd like to explore the possibility of confirmation but aren't able to make Sunday afternoons, don't let that put you off. Please talk to Jane and we can make alternative arrangements. By exploring confirmation you are not committing yourself to being confirmed in July. Contact details: 01462 434686 or jane@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk

St Mark's Lent Appeal 2016

Us/USPG Rapid Response Fund for refugees in Greece

The final total for this year's Lent Appeal is **£1644**. Many thanks to all for giving so generously. Emma Kevan from *Us/USPG* who came to St Mark's on 3 April has expressed her appreciation and sent the following information about how the money is being used.

On the Island of Lesbos, it is supporting an initiative based at the Pharos Lighthouse to help refugees who arrive by boat from Turkey.

On the Island of Samos, it goes to the Greek non-profit organisation MedIn (Medical Intervention) which looks after refugees who arrive with immediate needs for shelter, food and healthcare.

In Athens, it helps Apostoli, the humanitarian arm of the Orthodox Church of Greece, and the Salvation Army, prioritising children and the elderly and those with poor health; it also funds an Afghan interpreter who provides information to families about the safe options available to them so they can avoid the dangers posed by people smugglers.

In practice, £6 pays for a food parcel for a refugee living in temporary accommodation, £11.50 pays for a blanket, £13 pays for a sleeping bag, and £77 pays for a warm clothing kit for refugees stranded in Athens.

The situation changes regularly and updated information is available on <http://www.weareus.org.uk/resources/migration/>

Thanks again – a wonderful response to a desperate situation.

John Richardson and members of the St Mark's Mission Committee

Thursday Group: 5 May, 7.45 for 8pm start in the church hall

The May meeting will be a talk by the Herts Library and Archives Services entitled 'Remarkable Women of Hertfordshire'. Entrance £3 for visitors (includes refreshments). All are welcome.

An invitation from All Saints' Church, St Paul's Walden

"The Parish of St Paul's Walden has planned a 'Beating the Bounds' walk on **Sunday 1 May** to celebrate the recent formation of the Hitchin and St Paul's Walden Team. We will leave All Saints' just after 12 noon and walk to Preston for a picnic lunch on The Green. After lunch we return to All Saints' via The Rusty Gun, Minsden and Langley End. We hope that members of the Hitchin churches will join us. You are very welcome to attend our Family Communion service at All Saints' at 11am before the walk. More details from Jenny Mason: 01438 871580 or jennymason01@googlemail.com"