

### Thursday Group: 2 March, 7.45 for 8pm in the church hall

The March meeting will be a movement workshop led by Lois Palmer from Medau Movement. This is a gentle variety of exercise using scarves and music to encourage strength, stamina and well-being. All are welcome. If you don't wish to participate, you can observe and benefit from the relaxed atmosphere. £3 entry for visitors (includes refreshments). Further information from Val Conetta.

### St Mark's Bumper Cake Stall in the Market Place: 11 March, 8.30am until sold out

Judy Page and Joy Hukin would be delighted to receive offers of cakes, preserves etc and/or also offers of help on the day.

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

If you would like either to receive this news sheet via email in future or to have a notice included in the next news sheet, please email [notices@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk](mailto:notices@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk) or ring Deirdre Parr on 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 or in the email version. If you have no access to these, please contact Deirdre Parr using the above email address or phone number.

# St Mark's Church



**A member of Churches Together in Hitchin**

**19 February 2017**

**Second Sunday before Lent**

**Services 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**

Genesis 1: 1 - 2: 3
Romans 8: 18-25
Matthew 6: 25-34

**St Mark's extends a warm welcome to newcomers**

If you are new here, do introduce yourself to Jane, our Vicar, or to a Welcomer or Warden, and 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**

### Songs for 10.00am

MP 734	We really want to thank you, Lord
Sheet	All through history
MP 590	Seek ye first
Sheet	The Lord's my shepherd (Townend)
MP 664	The spirit lives to set us free

### Diary for the week beginning Monday, 20 February

Tue 21	8.00pm	Good Friday Workshop planning meeting at 19 Wilbury Way
Wed 22	9.15am	Morning Prayer
	10.30am	Oughton Primary School Year 2 visit to church
	2.00pm	Trefoil Guild Thinking Day Service
	7.00pm	Choir Practice
Thur 23	8.00pm	PCC meets at St Mark's
	12-2pm	Hall cleaning
Fri 24	6.30pm	Group With No Name
	12.30pm	Church Lunch
	1.30pm	Women's World Day of Prayer rehearsal in church

### Next Sunday, 26 February – Sunday next before Lent

8.00am	Holy Communion
10.00am	Holy Communion

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

**PHASE's** 'Resilience' programme that is being delivered to secondary schools during February and March; Tom Lewis, **Christchurch's** leader of children's and youth ministry, as he implements his new strategy

for youth work; all those preparing for and attending **Wymondley Baptist Chapel's** 'Messy Church' event next Saturday.

### From the St Mark's Cycle of Prayer, we pray for:

Ministry at Westmill Lawns; people with visual, hearing and speech impairment; the residents of Truemans Road.

### Notices

#### Churchwardens

The District Church Council, at its meeting on 9 February, decided to expand the structure of our Churchwardens' team. From the AGM on 12 March, we will have two new Assistant Fabric Wardens. This new role of Assistant Fabric Warden will be to look after the day-to-day maintenance of the church building and to oversee and work with outside contractors when necessary. The legal responsibility for the building remains with the Churchwardens, but is delegated to the Assistant Fabric Wardens. This, we hope, will make the role of Churchwarden much easier and less time-consuming. With these new roles we will have a Wardens' team of 8 people: 2 Churchwardens, 4 Deputy Wardens (who help with the Sunday duties) and 2 Assistant Fabric Wardens. We are delighted to say that two members of the congregation have already indicated their willingness to take on the role of Assistant Fabric Warden. As we look to the Annual General Meeting, we need to invite two more people to join this Wardens' team as one of our current Churchwardens and one Deputy Church Warden have indicated their desire to step down from these particular roles. If you are interested in exploring the possibility of being Churchwarden or of helping as a Deputy Warden on a Sunday morning, please talk to Louise, Tricia or Jane.

#### St Mark's AGM: 12 March at 11.30am

More information to come next week but please put the date in your diary. This is more than just a business meeting; It is a chance to get a full picture of the life of our church and to hear about future plans.

### **Good Friday Workshop Planning meeting - change of venue**

The planning meeting at 8pm on Tuesday this week has now moved from the Vicarage to 19 Wilbury Way. Everyone still very welcome.

### **Ash Wednesday**

Wednesday, 1 March is Ash Wednesday. To mark this day, the beginning of Lent, we have two services of Holy Communion. Morning Prayer will be replaced by a said communion service at 9.15am and this will be led by Revd Michael Roden. Later in the day a communion service with hymns and a homily will take place at 8pm, this service being led by Revd Austin Smith.

### **A different type of Lent!**

For March and April this year (in fact from 27 Feb) I will be spending the majority of each week away from Hitchin, focusing on family matters. I will be back in Hitchin for the weekends, and at certain points during the week. During this time, if you wish to contact me, the best way to do so will be via email, which I will be able to access easily ([jane@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk](mailto:jane@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk)). If you don't have email access, then do feel free to leave phone messages on the Vicarage answer phone and I will return calls as soon as I'm able. On weekdays, if urgent help is needed, please do contact either of our Readers, John Richardson (435595) or Andrew Parr (456184) or a member of our Pastoral Committee. This will be a very different experience of Lent for me and one in which, strangely, there will be a lot more time to pray! Therefore, if there are particular things you would like me to pray for during this Lent then I'd love to hear from you and to be able to pray for you during my time away. Do let me know how best I can pray for you by dropping me an email or popping a note through the Vicarage letter box at any time during Lent. *Jane*

### **Signing up for CTH Lent Groups**

The sign-up sheets are at the back of church for you to choose a group to attend. These small groups are an opportunity to meet with people from other churches to follow a particular part of the Bible just during the weeks of Lent. Those who have joined one in past years have seen well-known passages in a different light and made new friends too! This year, we are looking at Philippians using *Centred on Christ* by Michael Baughen. Please put your name and a contact number next to the group you wish to attend and make a note of the address and date of the first one. Any queries to Helen Richardson.

### **February Foodbank collection**

If you would like to contribute to our local foodbank, our monthly collection will take place next Sunday, 26 February. **The following are the items they currently need:** tins of meat, fish, rice pudding; long-life fruit juice; UHT and/or dried milk; jam; tea bags; deodorant for both men and women; shaving foam; nappies (size 5/6); bags for life (they are very short of these). They do **not** need any of the following, thank you: pasta and rice; baked beans; soup; soap.

**Women's World Day of Prayer: Friday, 3 March, 1pm at St Mark's** Crèche provided and refreshments after the service. Despite the name, men are welcome too! This year, the service has been prepared by the women of the Philippines. There will be a display of the work of the Asian Christian Students Trust in the Philippines. This project helping children who live on the rubbish dumps is supported by St Mark's; Joy Hukin, a member of our church, spent 3 months in the Philippines as a volunteer with the Trust and will be available to talk to after the service. For further information, contact Helen Richardson.