

St Mark's Lent Appeal 2017 - *Healing Syria's wounds*

A word of thanks to all who have contributed so far to this year's Lent Appeal and a reminder that today is the last day for donations. Gift envelopes are available at the back of the church.

We are supporting the work of Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) among Syrian refugees in the country itself and the surrounding countries of Turkey, Jordan, Lebanon and Iraq. Though there are some fragile signs of peace, the plight of those who have left their homes is as severe as ever and medical care is essential for those who are in camps and for those who are trying to return home. MSF is one of the most respected and effective medical organisations in the world (Nobel Peace Prize winner in 1999) and has a reputation for going into places when others hold back. It is not yet permitted to go into government-held areas and it is too dangerous to work in territories controlled by Islamic State, but it is already on the ground in other parts of the country and surrounding states and hopes to step up its work as soon as possible. Our contributions will help it to do so. For more information, go to www.msf.org.uk/country/syria or have a word with John Richardson.

To receive the news sheet by email, submit a notice or contact us

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 or ring Deirdre Parr on 456184.

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

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

23 April 2017

Second Sunday of Easter

Services today

| | |
|---------|--------------------------------|
| 8.00am | Holy Communion (p29 in folder) |
| 10.00am | Holy Communion (p15 in folder) |
| 1.00pm | Baptism of Edie King |

Readings for today

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|--------------------|
| Acts 2: 14a, 22-32 |
| 1 Peter 1: 3-9 |
| John 20: 19-31 |

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



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Hymns for 10.00am

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|----------|---------------------------------------|
| AMNS 81 | At the Lamb's high feast we sing |
| AMNS 85 | Good Christians all, rejoice and sing |
| AMNS 73 | Ye choirs of new Jerusalem |
| SF 31 | This is St Mark who followed Christ |
| AMNS 402 | Now is eternal life |

Diary for the week beginning Monday, 24 April

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|---------|--------------------------------------|---|
| Mon 24 | 2.00pm | Building work begins on the outside of the church Prayer Group meets at 231 Bedford Road |
| Tue 25 | 10.30am 8.00pm | Church organ repair Annual Parochial Church Meeting at Church House |
| Wed 26 | 9.15am 10.30am - 1.30pm 7.00pm | Morning Prayer Filming in church Choir Practice |
| Thur 27 | 12-2pm 6.30pm | Hall cleaning Group With No Name |
| Fri 28 | 12.30pm | Church Lunch |

Next Sunday, 30 April – Third Sunday of Easter

| | |
|---------|-----------------|
| 8.00am | Holy Communion |
| 10.00am | Holy Communion |
| 1.00pm | Baptism Service |

Prayer Ministry

If you wish to pray with someone or to be prayed for at the end of the 10am service, Andrew will be near the pulpit in the side aisle to listen, talk and pray with you.

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

PHASE's team retreat taking place over Monday and Tuesday this week; the CTH Executive meeting this Tuesday, asking that it may discern more closely the will of God for the organisation.

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

Christchurch and The Hub Church; the local media; the residents of Balmoral Road.

Prayer Requests

We also pray for all those named on our Prayer tree and in the Prayer Requests book in church. Those in need of long-term prayer are also prayed for each week by a group of people praying individually in their own homes.

Notices

Easter 'thank you's'

From the Vicar: A huge 'thank you' to everyone who contributed in any way to our observance of Holy Week or our celebrations on Easter Day. So many people were involved in so many different ways. It was a real Church family effort. Thank you one and all. *Jane*

From the Flower Team Co-ordinators: thank you to everyone who helped make the church look beautiful for Easter. We have received a number of appreciative comments. *Diane and Joy*

Building work starting this week

The major building work on our roof and walls outlined in the Annual Report will commence tomorrow, Monday 24 April. The work will take at least four weeks and there will be scaffolding in place around some of St Mark's Church building. There should be minimal disruption to the activities in the church and the hall during this time, and the contractor should not require access to the building. Do please avoid parking in St Mark's Close and be vigilant on safety and security matters. Please do contact Tricia Reed if you have any questions or concerns relating to this work.

What's God calling you to do?

In our Lent sermon series, we reflected on what God might be calling us as individuals to do. If you are thinking that he might be asking you to do something different, however small you may feel that something might be, we'd love to invite you to an informal supper at the Vicarage on Saturday 6 May at 7.30pm, to explore that further with you. Please let Jane know if you'd like to come so we can make sure we have enough food (434686 or jane@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk).

Monthly Foodbank collection: Sunday 30 April

If you would like to contribute to our regular collection, the following are the items most urgently needed: tins of rice pudding, meat and vegetables, especially tomatoes and pulses; small tins of potatoes or instant potato e.g. *Smash*; pasta sauces; 500g packs of sugar; long-life fruit juice; dried milk; strong carrier bags.

The following are **not** needed, thank you: pasta; rice; baked beans; sweetcorn; soup; soap.

Thursday Group: 4 May, 7.45 for 8pm start in the church hall

A talk by Brian Carline: 'Tripe and Trotters; a tale of life in the 40s'. All are welcome. £3 entry for visitors (includes refreshments).

A very Muddy Challenge

My cousin's son, Jay, was diagnosed with a brain tumour just over a year ago. He was only 16 months old. Jay's family are very grateful for all the prayers we have said for Jay at St Mark's. He has beaten all the odds and has just finished his chemotherapy and is doing well. It has been a very stressful year for his family (he has four older siblings) and the future remains quite uncertain. I wanted to do something to raise some money both to help fund a much-needed holiday for my cousin and his family now Jay will, hopefully, soon be well enough, and also for *Clowns in the Sky*, a charity that supports similar families. Rachel Drury and 3 other generous friends are joining me for a Tough Mudder Half next Saturday, 29 April, which involves running 5 miles and trying our best to get over, under or through 13 Muddy Obstacles. We'd be very grateful for your prayers to see us through as we are quite nervous and if anyone would like to sponsor us, the links are <https://www.gofundme.com/the-mudder-for-jay> and <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/TheMudderforJay> or you can just give Rachel or me your donation and let us know if you'd like it to go to Jay's family or to *Clowns in the Sky*. Thank you so much,

Pippa Lally)