

Final update on Lent Appeal - *Healing Syria's wounds*

Many thanks to all who contributed to this year's Lent Appeal for the work of Médecins sans Frontières (MSF) in Syria and surrounding countries. The total donated was £1,241 which, with gift aid, gives a final figure of £1481. This is an amazing amount, a great tribute to the generosity of the St Mark's congregation and the reputation of MSF in meeting need in some of the most difficult parts of the world. If you want to keep in touch with what MSF will do with the money, go to www.msf.org.uk/country/syria

Messy Church Planning Meeting: Tuesday, 20 June at 7.30pm

The meeting to begin to plan for setting up Messy Church at Oughton Primary School will be held at The Vicarage and everyone is welcome to join us.

Mudder thanks

Thank you all for your prayers and sponsorship. On 29 April, we spent 3 hours getting progressively muddier and more bruised, all in a good cause. We've raised over £750 supporting Pippa's cousin's son who had a brain tumour and other families in this situation.

Pippa Lally and Rachel Drury

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

7 May 2017

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Services and events today

8.00am	Holy Communion (p29 in folder)
10.00am	Holy Communion (p15 in folder)
6.30pm	SIX:30 Service
8.00pm	Sunday Social at The Angels

Readings for today

Acts 2: 42-47
1 Peter 2: 19-25
John 10: 1-10

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

AMNS 138	We sing the praise of him who died
AMNS 426	The Lord's my Shepherd, I'll not want
AMNS 126	The King of love my shepherd is
MP 220	He is Lord, he is Lord
MP 30	Alleluia, alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord

Diary for the week beginning Monday, 8 May

Wed 10	9.15am 7.00pm	Morning Prayer Choir Practice
Thur 11	12-2pm 6.30pm 8.00pm	Hall cleaning Group With No Name Diocesan Reader Choir rehearsing in church

Next Sunday, 14 May – Fifth Sunday of Easter

8.00am	Holy Communion
10.00am	Holy Communion

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:

The Hub Church as they launch a new evening service, *HubCast Live*, aimed at those who would not normally attend church; all involved in the Alpha Course currently running at **Christchurch**.

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

All Saints St Paul's Walden, St Martin's Preston and other village churches: Relate and Cruse bereavement care; the residents of Shepherds Mead.

Notices

Traidcraft Stall will be at the back of the church next Sunday, 14 May.

A plea for cakes for 16 May when we will be hosting churchwardens from across the archdeaconry as they gather in St Mark's for the annual Archdeacon's Visitation. At this service, the wardens are formally sworn into their office. We are providing cake and refreshments for the wardens and their supporters. Any offers of cakes to Judy Page, please.

Disasters Emergency Committee East Africa Crisis Appeal

Some church members have asked if we would collect for this appeal which was launched during Lent. As we had our own Lent appeal for MSF, it didn't seem right to impose a further collection on you. However, there is now a collection point at the back of church to enable you to easily contribute toward this fund. It will be in church on the 7 and 14 May only. The following is the plea from the DEC:

Hunger on a massive scale is looming across East Africa. If we don't act now, it will get much worse. Drought and conflict have left 16 million people on the brink of starvation and in urgent need of food, water and medical treatment. People are already dying in South Sudan and Somalia.

In Kenya, the government has declared a national emergency and Ethiopia is battling a new wave of drought following the strongest El Niño on record.

Women, children and older people are suffering the most; more than 800,000 children under five are severely malnourished. Without immediate treatment, they are at risk of starving to death.

DEC member charities are already delivering life-saving assistance in all affected countries. But, they need more money to help reduce the scale and severity of the crisis.