

CTH Council: 23 May, 8pm (tea/coffee from 7.30) at St Faith's
Churches Together in Hitchin Councils are open to all and members of all churches are welcome. There will be a talk first by Dr Sandra Williams, a member of Walsworth Road Baptist Church and a GP in Shefford, on the challenges of being in general practice. Then there will be an update on the North Herts Sanctuary and an opportunity to reflect on meeting the needs of the homeless in Hitchin. Between the two presentations, there will be a few items of Church Together business. Further details from John Richardson.

Safeguarding

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. If you have any concerns please contact our safeguarding officer, Pauline Banks.

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

14 May 2017

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Services today

8.00am	Holy Communion (p29 in folder)
10.00am	Holy Communion (p15 in folder)

Readings for today

Acts 7: 55-60
1 Peter 2: 2-10
John 14: 1-14

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



Follow us on Twitter: @stmarkshitchin

Hymns for 10.00am

AMNS 161	Christ is our corner-stone
AMNS 122	How sweet the name of Jesus sounds
SF 12	Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?
SF 4	To be in your presence
SF 17	In Christ alone my hope is found

Diary for the week beginning Monday, 15 May

Mon 15	2.00pm	Prayer Group meets
Tues 16	7.45pm	Archdeacon's Visitation at St Mark's
Wed 17	9.15am	Morning Prayer
	7.00pm	Choir Practice
Thur 18	12-2pm	Hall cleaning
Fri 19	9.30am	Little Lions

Next Sunday, 21 May – Sixth Sunday of Easter

8.00am	Holy Communion
10.00am	Family Service and Parade
11.15am	Holy Communion
1.00pm	Baptism Service

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

all who will be raising and giving money in this **Christian Aid Week**, remembering above all the poorest of the poor in our world, and praying that they may be helped to live more abundant lives; the 23 young people of **Our Lady's Roman Catholic Church** who will be confirmed in their faith on 20 May, asking that the Holy Spirit will fill and inspire them in their lives; those attending the *Christianity Explored* course at **Walsworth Road Baptist Church**, asking that they may encounter God in new ways, grow in understanding and discover a real belief in Jesus.

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

the Wardens, Treasurer, secretaries, welcomers and those on the taxi rota; Social Services; the residents of Willow Tree Way.

Notices

Refreshments for Archdeacon's Visitation on 16 May

On Tuesday, we will be hosting churchwardens from across the archdeaconry as they gather in St Mark's to be formally sworn into their office and will be providing refreshments for the wardens and their supporters after the service. Please let Judy Page know today if you can provide a cake for the occasion.

Christian Aid Week 14 to 20 May.

If your street is missed and you would like to donate please use the envelopes which you'll find on the Mission Table or donate online at www.christianaid.org.uk/donate

St Mark's Cake Stall and Tombola on 17 June in the Market Place

Please keep this date in mind. More information to follow next week.

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

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

Archbishops' Election Letter to Parishes

The Archbishops of Canterbury and York have written a pastoral letter to parishes and chaplaincies of the Church of England concerning the General Election on 8 June. To read or download a copy of the letter please go to

<https://www.stalbans.anglican.org/electionletter/>

If you don't have access to a computer you will find a copy on the noticeboard in church and a further 2 copies on the Welcomers' table.

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 a collection point at the back of church today to enable you to easily contribute toward this fund. 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.

Thy Kingdom Come 25 May - 4 June

The Archbishop of Canterbury is spearheading a national move to encourage people to pray every day between Ascension Day (25 May) and Pentecost (4 June) for people to discover a faith in God. Churches are joining in in varying ways. We are backing the 5 @ 5 idea. This is very simply encouraging people to commit to pray for 5 people at 5.00pm every day between 25 May and 4 June. Why not think of 5 people who you'd like to know God and make a commitment to pray for them every day in this period at 5.00pm?

General Election hustings: 2 June 7.30pm at Hitchin Christian Centre

Churches Together in Hitchin (CTH) is arranging a hustings at which the candidates in the Hitchin and Harpenden Constituency will set out their policies and values and answer questions. Questions should be sent by the end of Monday, 29 May to John Richardson, CTH Secretary, by text to 07505 426876 or by email to johnrichardson891@btinternet.com or post to 97 Grove Road Hitchin SG5 1SQ. Please indicate if you will be present at the meeting to ask your question. All are welcome at what in the past has been a well-attended and much-appreciated meeting.