

⊕ **St Mark's Church Hitchin** ⊕
A member of Churches Together in Hitchin

29 April 2018

5th Sunday of Easter

Services and events for today

8am	Holy Communion (p.29 in folder)
10am	Holy Communion (p.15 in folder)
1pm	Baptism

Readings for today

Acts 8. 26-40
1 John. 7-21
John. 1-8

St Mark's extends a warm welcome to newcomers

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



@stmarkshitchin



Hymns for 10.00am

175	Ye that know the Lord is gracious
501	Now the green blade riseth
161	Christ is our corner-stone
426	The Lord's my Shepherd, I'll not want
192	Praise, my soul, the King of heaven

Diary for week beginning Monday 30 April

Wed 2	9.15am	Morning Prayer
	7.10pm	Choir Practice
Thur 3	10am	Communion at Westmill Lawns
Fri 4	9.30am	Little Lions
Sat 5	2pm	Service of Baby Blessing

Services and events for 6 May 2018

8am	Holy Communion
10am	Holy Communion
4.30pm	Six:30 Service

From the Churches Together in Hitchin prayer Link we pray for:

Hitchin Christian Centre continue to run their Job Club. May this personal support and outreach result in hearts that are touched and lives that are changed.

From the St Mark's Cycle of Prayer, we pray for: Anglican mission agencies: Church Mission Society (CMS) and United Society Partners in the Gospel (USPG), and for children and vulnerable adults who suffer from abuse. We also pray for the residents of Old Hale Way.

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

NOTICES

Lent Appeal 2018

This year's Lent Appeal for St George's Church and Clinic in Baghdad has resulted in a total, including Gift-aid, of £1,630: This is one of the highest amounts we have ever raised during Lent and your wonderful generosity is much appreciated. The money will be sent to St George's via The Foundation for Relief and Reconciliation in the Middle East, a UK-based Christian charity with a range of work in Iraq and among Iraqi refugees in Jordan. If you would like to know more about what they do, go to www.frrme.org Thanks again.

Walk to St. Albans

As the weather stopped us from walking to St. Albans on Easter Monday, a group of us are hoping to walk to St. Albans on the first May Bank Holiday Monday (7th May) following the route planned for the pilgrimage, mainly on footpaths. We will meet at The Three Moorhens carpark at 8:45 am and we should reach the abbey in time for the service of Evening Prayer which begins at 5.00pm. Bring a picnic lunch. Walkers will need to make their own arrangements for transport home. It will also be possible to join in or meet us at various points along the route. At the moment we are a small group – it would be great to have a few more!

For further details speak to Roger or Naomi.

Spring Clean

It's that time again to get rid of the cob webs, dust the difficult corners, weed and tidy up the grounds and generally make St Mark's sparkle for another year. So on Saturday the 13th May between 10 am and 3pm anyone who can spare some time will be welcomed with a supply of feather dusters, polish, marigold gloves etc etc. Coffee and tea will be supplied and biscuits to keep our strength up. All help gratefully received. See you there, thanks, *Joy Bennett*

Name Badge Sundays

Following a number of requests for us to hold another 'name badge Sunday', during which everyone is invited to wear a name badge to help us all learn each other's names, we will be holding two consecutive name badge Sundays on 17th and 24th June.

Garden needed for a Beaver activity

For part of their Outdoor Badge the Beavers need to create something to help animals in the wild. We'd like this to be an activity they can do outdoors rather than an evening in the hut. They could;

1. dig a hole, fill it with sand and pop something over the top, for amphibians,
2. Rake up some leaves into a quiet corner and surround with twigs for hedgehogs, or
3. Make a pile of logs and bricks for minibeasts. Does anyone have a garden big enough for the Beavers to do one of these tasks?

We currently have this evening planned for 5th July 5:30-6:30. Many thanks, Pippa

Enterprising Women and the Country House: From Commission to Design & Construction

The Friends of Holy Saviour's next "Talk and Tea" afternoon will be on Sunday 20th May at 3pm, in Holy Saviour Church, Radcliffe Rd. Dr Megan Leyland, Senior Properties Historian, English Heritage will explore various roles played by women in the patronage, design and construction of their country homes and gardens from the 18th, 19th centuries, taking a close look at the obstacles women faced, their experiences, and how these fit into wider histories of country house building and architecture.

Tickets £8 ("Friends" £7) are available from 01462 646257 or The Hitchin Initiative Office and includes tea after the talk!

Messy St Mark's 10th May

Thank you to everyone who keeps supplying the Messy St Mark's team with various bits and bobs! Our next Messy St Mark's is on 10th May and we're doing the story of the lost sheep. So our appeal this month is for white, brown or black wool, and for cardboard boxes and tubes which can be made into sheep, sheep pens or shepherds. Above all, please keep praying for the team and for everyone who comes along. Many thanks. *Jane*

Informal Service 6th May - Advance notice that our next informal service (previously known as the SIX:30 service) will be at 4.30pm on 6th May.

Thursday Group 3 May

Thursday Group meeting on May 3rd will be a Pottery Demonstration given by Helen Baron. She will explain about different clay and use her potter's wheel to show how she works. All welcome we meet in the church hall 7.45pm for 8pm start. Admission £3 (inc. refreshments). For further information contact Val.

Holy Land Tour 3 –11 April 2019

Rev Andrew Henton Pusey (Walsworth Road Baptist) is co-leading a group visiting the Holy Land next spring, and you are warmly invited to consider joining the tour. With five nights in Nazareth and three nights in Jerusalem, there is a busy programme of visits to Biblical sites, but an added bonus of these tours is the opportunity to meet and to share with Christians living in the Holy Land today, including believers in local churches and staff at two Christian colleges.

For fuller details, please contact Andrew soon:

minister@wrbchitchin.org.uk 01462 420681

Annual Gate Closure - We need to lock the gates to the church grounds each year for 24 hours. This year's gate closure will be from 6pm on 6th May to 6pm on 7th May.

Save the date!

We have now finalised dates for my move from St Mark's to St Paul's with Willian. My final Sunday at St Mark's will be 29th July. My installation service will be 6th September, 7.30pm at St Paul's Letchworth. I understand that many of you will be on holiday for my last Sunday at St Mark's (and I am likely to be a horribly weepy mess anyway...) so please don't worry if that isn't convenient. I would however love to invite you all to the installation service, I hope you can make it! *Jeni*

P.S. Everyone is invited to a barbeque in the Vicarage garden after Jeni's last service on 29th July. More details nearer the time. *Jane*

Social Events - Dates for Your Diary

Here are some social events that we intend to organise this year, reminders and more details will be in the notices closer to the time but please do include these in your diary now:

- *Saturday 30 June* at 3pm – strawberries & cream tea in Eileen Morden's garden
- *Saturday 28 July* at 12 - Picnic and outdoor games at the scout hut, other churches will be invited so we hope for good numbers
- *Saturday 25 August* 6.30pm – drinks in the church hall, then a safari supper
- *Saturday 29 Sept*, 7pm – dinner at a local restaurant, or pot-luck supper in the hall (last year we went to the Millstream pub, if you have any preferences as to venue please let Louise Wills know)
- *Friday 23 Nov*, 7pm – quiz and fish & chip supper

General Data Protection Regulations

In May the rules on how we store and use people's data are changing. One of the biggest changes is that we have to be able to prove that people have given consent to receive things from us, most importantly this news sheet (if receiving via email), and information about fundraising and stewardship. We are also needing to ask again for permission for details to go in our church directory. Therefore, from this Sunday there will be Data Consent Forms at the back of church. Please complete one of these forms and place it in the box next to the blank forms. It will only take a couple of minutes. If you need help in doing so, please do ask one of the clergy or church wardens. The new regulations come into force on 23rd May. If we do not have your written permission by then, we will not be able to keep you informed of the things going on in our church life, apart from via the verbal notices in the church and the news sheet given out in church. Please help us to keep you informed by taking the time to complete the form.
Thank you very much. Jane

Foodbank

We shall be collecting for the Foodbank this weekend. The Foodbank members have said that the main items requested for April are tinned tomatoes, long life fruit juice, tinned rice, small coffee, sugar (500gms) and men's deodorant. Any other donations within their normal requirements are welcome.

Party in the Square 20th May

At the CTH Party in the Square St Mark's plus two other churches are doing a stall promoting Messy Church/Messy St Mark's. We're doing a couple of craft activities, plus telling people about Messy St Mark's. We're needing some extra pairs of hands to help with the craft activities. If you can offer 30 mins or an hour of your time between 11-3.30pm, please let Jane or Helen Richardson know.

Prayer Requests

The people listed below are in need of long-term prayer support. They are named on our Prayer Tree and are also prayed for each week by a group of people praying individually in their own homes. Please remember them in your prayers.

Pray for

Caroline Selzer
Janette and Jean Dixon
Grace Harvey
Louise Johnson
Dorrett and Elroy Esson
Joan Clark
Chris and Ann Jenkins
Lynne Hughes
Linda
Margaret Gibbs
Tim Clarke
Peter Donavon
Rosina Tizzard

Requested by

Andrew Parr
Roy Dixon
Roy Dixon
Roy Dixon
Roy Dixon
Roy Dixon
Andrew Parr
Daphne Wakefield
Margaret Gibbs

Jane Mainwaring
Diane Porter
Judy Page

If you would like to receive this news sheet via email in the future, we need you to sign a consent form so we can add your details to our distribution list. The consent forms are on the welcome table, or email notices@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk for a copy.

If you would like to have a notice included in the next news sheet, please email notices@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk or ring Tricia Reed on 4440278.

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

EVENTS If you would like to promote an event at St Mark's on our Website, please send you poster/flier to events@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk