



St Mark's Church Hitchin

2nd February 2020

Candlemas

**Services & events for
today**

8am Holy Communion

10am Holy Communion

2pm Baptism

4pm Chenerys In Loving

Memory Service

*Children are welcome to join
our creche & children's groups
in the hall*

Readings

Malachi 3. 1-5

Hebrews 2. 14-18

Luke 2. 22-40

Hymns

A&M 31 Come, thou long expected

A&M 224 Lead us, heavenly Father

A&M 39 Angels, from the realms

JP 141 Jesus, name above all

JP 427 Make way, make way,

Prayers

From the Churches Together in

Hitchin Prayer Link we pray for

The Church of God of Prophecy, for
their upcoming Pastor's and
Spouses conference.

From the St Mark's Cycle of

Prayer, we pray for the clergy in

the Hitchin and St Paul's Walden
team ministry; also for the

Citizens' Advice Bureau and Black
Squirrel Credit Union. This week
we pray for residents of Symonds
Road and Chestnut Court.

NOTICES

9th February Bring & Share Lunch

Next Sunday will be Jane's last day
with us, and to mark the occasion
there will be a Family Communion
service at 10am and lunch in the
hall from 12. Please tick the sheet
on the table or let Joy Hukin know
what food you plan to bring.

Eddie Cullum

Dear friends, thank you so much
for your prayers and support over
what has been a long journey.
Rachel, myself and family were
overwhelmed to see so many
people at Eddie's Farewell Service.
A large person with a large
personality, Eddie led a full life. He
was determined to get to Church
on Christmas morning and I thank
those who made that possible. It
meant so much to Eddie and to
me. Many thanks to Val, Maggie
and the team for their time and
energy organising the
refreshments etc. The flowers
were beautiful including the
pedestal in memory of our
daughter Jane whose anniversary
falls at this time. Thank you Becky
Finch and Ann Wakefield. St
Mark's Church is and I hope will
continue to be a very special place.
I feel blessed to be part of this
family. Ruby.

Time Trek holiday club for

reception to Yr 6. This is a fun
afternoon of music, games, craft
and bible stories for reception to
Yr 6 aged children. It is a £2
donation and parents can leave
their children. This time trek is at
Christchurch, Bedford Road, SG5
1HF on Tuesday 18th Feb 1pm-
4pm. Register at [https://time-
trek-feb-20.eventbrite.co.uk](https://time-trek-feb-20.eventbrite.co.uk)
bookings close 9th Feb. If you
want more info, talk to
Marie Polley or Grace Polley - we
will both be helping out at this
event, so there are even a couple
of friendly faces!

Date for your Diary

There will be a Church Spring
Cleaning Day on Saturday 21st
March, 10-3. There will be a range
of jobs, inside and out, plus coffee
and cake! Please book it in your
diary now!

Caterpillars playgroup is restarting
on Wednesday 29th January at
Strathmore Infant School in Old

Hale Way. Children from 0-4 years
and their parents, grandparents
and carers all welcome 9.15-11am
on Wednesdays during termtime.
£1.50 for one child, £2 for two, £3
for three. Small snack included,
plus tea and coffee for adults.
Also volunteers are needed to help
run the playgroup – if you can
spare an occasional Wednesday
morning please contact Laura at
strathmorecaterpillars@gmail.com

**Recycling of coloured plastic milk
bottle tops** St Marks collection has
been taken to Our Lady's Church
and thereafter to the Lush
cosmetics shop in the Mall in Luton
and Lush have sent them on to
Surfers against Sewage who
arrange for them to be recycled for
packaging. Unfortunately, the
person who was taking them to
Luton was taken ill recently and is
now no longer able to take the
bottle tops to Luton. If there is
anyone who might be able
to take on this occasional task
(maybe works in Luton?) please let
me know.

Alison Smith

Marathon Fundraising (for Amnesty International and Children with Cancer)

Pippa is hosting a vegan taster
evening in the church hall on
Friday 28th February (7:30). £15
per person for 6 courses of vegan
food. Pippa Lally and Mark Drury
are organising a Ceilidh on 21st
March at St John's Community
Centre. £20 per person for dinner
and dancing. If you'd like more
information or to book tickets
please email
amnestyvegan@outlook.com for
the vegan evening or
drurys26.2@outlook.com for the
Ceilidh or speak to Pippa, Mark or
Rachel

Valentines dinner for lone parents

Friday 14th Feb 6-9.30pm at
Westmill Community Centre.
See poster for details.

Ash Wednesday Lunch 26 Feb 12 noon at St Mark's. This year it is St Mark's turn to organise the Churches Together in Hitchin event. Shrove Tuesday/Pancake day, the day before, symbolises eating up food in the house ready for Lent, a time of frugality and thinking of others. The Ash Wednesday Lunch is therefore a simple meal of soup and a roll, a piece of fruit, plus tea/coffee. Proceeds go to Christian Aid. There will also be a Traidcraft stall. A few volunteers are needed to help with this. If you could do so, or would like to know more, please contact Helen Richardson at church or on 07880 68681 helenwrigh@btinternet.com.

The next Thursday Group meeting on February 6th is a talk entitled "Pelvic Health". The speaker Helen Mellersh is a physiotherapist. All visitors are welcome and we meet in the church hall 7.45 pm for 8pm start. (£3 inc. refreshments) For further details contact Val Conetta

Praying For Young Lives

Monday 10th Feb 6.30 - 7.30pm
Phase are keen to grow the prayer for young lives and as part of this we are trying a one hour prayer meeting before the next CTH meeting at Tilehouse Street Baptist Church. Join us for an hour of prayer for young lives. Whatever your experience of prayer we will make sure you feel comfortable & welcomed.

Churches Together in Hitchin

(CTH) The next CTH Council is on Monday 10th February, 8.00 pm at Tilehouse Street Baptist Church - tea/coffee from 7.30. This is the first meeting to be chaired by the Rev Jane Robson and, after a few items for report and discussion, she will start a conversation on environmental issues, her focus for the year, with the title (quoting Greta Thunberg) 'The world, in

case you hadn't noticed is currently on fire....'

Members of all churches are welcome to come along. For details contact John Richardson on johnrichardson891@btinternet.com or 07505 426876

Services and events for Sunday 9 February

8am Holy Communion
10am Family Communion
12noon Shared lunch

Church Diary for w/c 3 Feb

Mon 3 - 8pm DCC meeting
Wed 5 - 9.15am Morning Prayer
Thurs 6 - 10am Westmill Lawns Communion Service
3pm Messy St Mark's at Oughton School
7pm Thursday Group
Fri 7 - 9.30am Little Lions
Sat 8 - 9.45am Exploring Christianity

Hall bookings w/c 3 Feb

Mon 3 8.30am-3pm Signing Class
7-8pm Tai Chi
Tues 4 9.30am-12.30pm Jo Jingles
7-9pm NCT
Wed 5 11.30-12.30 Tai Chi
5.30-7pm Yoga
Thurs 6 12-2pm Hall cleaning

Volunteers needed in Church

House. We are looking for volunteers to answer phones and undertake light administrative duties. If you are interested please contact one of the Churchwardens for more details.

CTH Lent Groups 2020 beginning March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, April 5. The Study guide for 2020 is *Living Faith* by Krish Kandiah. Travel back in time to stare intently at the cross of Jesus. Take time to explore the meaning that surrounds this most defining moment in history. Each of the six studies consider the final words of Jesus to discover another level of living faith. We are welcomed: To Forgiveness; To

Service; To Hope; To Adoption; To Empathy; To Trust.

If you would like to host or lead a group please contact me by 16 February. If you are running a year round house group/prayer group and are willing to pause your study and join in this CTH one do let me know. Would existing groups let me know how many people from other churches you could accommodate for the Lent period. The blessing of small discussion groups made up other traditions is that they enrich the understanding and interpretations of our Christian life. Those who have participated in previous years have found them helpful and interesting.

Helen Richardson 07880 682681
helenwrigh@btinternet.com



St Mark's extends a warm welcome to newcomers!

Please do join us for a drink and a biscuit at the end of the service.

If you would like to discuss getting involved in the life of St Mark's, please email wardens@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk or call Jane on 01462 434 686

See our website, <http://www.stmarks-hitchin.org.uk> for the latest information about events and services.

St Mark's church is entirely funded from donations and hall hire.

We receive no external funding.
If you would like to contribute to our running costs, please enquire about giving by Standing Order, or using a Gift Envelope

If you would like to have a notice included in the next news sheet, for a maximum of two weeks, please email notices@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk or ring Maggie Mellersh on 504003

Please send notices by 7pm on the preceding Wednesday.