



**St Mark's Church Hitchin**  
**26<sup>th</sup> January 2020**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of**  
**Epiphany**

**Services & events for**  
**today**

8am Holy Communion

10am Holy Communion

*We welcome Phil Jackson from  
Zeo Church as our preacher for  
this service, as part of the  
ecumenical preaching  
exchange*

Traidcraft Stall in church today

5pm Taizé Service

**Readings**

Isaiah 9. 1-4

1 Corinthians 1. 10-18

Matthew 4. 12-23

**Hymns (A&M = Red hymn book)**

A&M 142 Hail to the Lord's  
anointed

A&M 115 Dear Lord & Father

A&M 52 The people that in  
darkness

JP 222 Spirit of the living God

JP 259 To God be the glory!

**Prayers**

**From the Churches Together in  
Hitchin Prayer Link** We remember  
Wymondley Baptist Chapel as they  
continue to explore leadership and  
pastor options. May God guide  
them to be both wise in their  
planning and to be open to options  
arising.

**From the St Mark's Cycle of  
Prayer, we pray for** Zeo Church,  
the New Testament Church of God  
and the International First-born  
Church of the Living God. We also  
pray for the staff and clients of the  
Nightingale Road Day Centre.  
This week we pray for residents of  
Grove Road and Fryth Cottages  
(Nightingale Road)

**NOTICES**

**9<sup>th</sup> February Bring & Share Lunch**

Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> Feb 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  
bring some finger food to share  
and help us celebrate with the  
Mainwaring family. Please tick the  
sheet on the table, or let Joy Hukin  
know what food you plan to bring  
so that she can ensure a good  
range of offerings!

**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  
68681helenwrich@btinternet.com.

**The next Thursday Group** meeting  
on February 6<sup>th</sup> 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.

**Vacancy update** Thank you to  
everyone who came along or  
contributed views for our session  
with Bishop Michael recently, it  
was a lively and positive discussion  
with a good cross-section of the  
congregation present.  
We are now in the process of  
drafting the **Parish Profile**, which

describes who we are as a church  
and the sort of person we are  
seeking to lead us. The DCC will  
review the final draft on **3 Feb**, so  
it is not too late to contribute  
views - do speak to a member of  
the DCC if you have not done so  
already.

The Profile will serve as the job  
advertisement, and be published  
on **9 February**. If all goes well, we  
will interview applicants on **23  
March**, and if an appointment can  
be made on that date we would  
expect a new vicar in **September**.  
Please do keep praying for those  
involved in the discernment  
process, and that the right person  
will come forward. More info on  
the arrangements for the vacancy  
is on a separate flyer so you can  
have contact details to hand.  
*Louise & Joy, Churchwardens*

**London Marathon** Pippa Lally and  
Mark Drury are both running the  
London Marathon this year. Pippa  
is fundraising for Amnesty  
International and Mark for  
Children with Cancer. We raised  
£110 last Sunday at our cake sale –  
thank you to everyone for  
supporting us. There will be  
another cake sale on 23rd  
February, and a Ceilidh on 21<sup>st</sup>  
March – more details to follow.  
The links to our sponsorship pages  
are below if you'd like to sponsor  
us. Thank you, Pippa & Mark.  
[https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/  
Team/MarkDruryandDeanCollins](https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/Team/MarkDruryandDeanCollins)  
[https://www.justgiving.com/Pippa  
-Lally-Marathon](https://www.justgiving.com/Pippa-Lally-Marathon)

**Cello concert for Phase**

Hitchin Cello Collective is  
presenting a concert of varied cello  
music at Christchurch, 3pm on  
Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> February. Entry is free  
and donations will be welcomed  
for Phase, the Hitchin Churches  
Schools Worker Project.

**Messy St Mark's resources** - for our next couple of sessions we are in need of: socks to make sock puppets (by 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb); boxes, tubes, cardboard for junk modelling (by 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb) and jam jars (by 15<sup>th</sup> March). Thank you!

**The next Foodbank collection** will be on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> January. Please bring your donations and leave them at the back of church. Long life juice; tinned & dried potatoes; tinned fruit & meat most needed.

**Church House Phone:** The phone system has been upgraded and the old phone number is now usable again. If you wish to contact the Parish Office or the Team Rector's Secretary please call 01462 452758. The Team Rector's Secretary is also contactable on 01462 432951.

**Volunteers needed in Church House.** Now that the Church House phone is working again we would like to have the Parish Office open on a more frequent and regular basis. 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.

Another evening of **Silent Films at St Mary's** with live organ accompaniment, on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> February starting at 7.30: first Chaplin's 1917 action-comedy Easy Street; then the 1920 gothic novella The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde. Tickets £12 (£8 for under-18s) from Hitchin Information, David's Music, 01462 492687 or online from [wegottickets.com/event/492686](http://wegottickets.com/event/492686)

**Job Club** Wednesdays 10-12 at Zeo Centre, Bedford Rd. Support for retraining and/or rejoining the job market. Contact 07931 833838 or [leigh.smith123@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:leigh.smith123@yahoo.co.uk)

**Services and events for Sunday 2 February**  
8am Holy Communion  
10am Holy Communion  
2pm Baptism  
4pm Chenerys Memorial Service

**Church Diary for w/c 27 January**  
**Wed 29**  
9.15am Morning Prayer  
**Thurs 30**  
1.30pm Oughton School visiting church

**Hall bookings w/c 27 January**  
**Mon 27** 8.30am-3pm Signing Class  
7-8pm Tai Chi  
**Tues 28** 9.30am-12.30pm Jo Jingles  
7-9pm NCT  
**Wed 29** 11.30-12.30 Tai Chi  
5.30-7pm Yoga  
**Thurs 30** 12-2pm Hall cleaning  
2-4pm Diocesan Booking

**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  
[helenwrich@btinternet.com](mailto:helenwrich@btinternet.com)

**Introduction to New Testament Greek** If anyone is interested in an introductory session on reading the NT in its original language please contact John Richardson on 07505 426876, or email to [johnrichardson891@btinternet.com](mailto:johnrichardson891@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](mailto:wardens@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk) or call Jane on 01462 434 686

DO PLEASE TAKE THESE NOTICES HOME WITH YOU

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](mailto:notices@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk) or ring Maggie Mellersh on 504003

Please send notices by 7pm on the preceding Wednesday.