



**St Mark's Church Hitchin**  
**23<sup>rd</sup> February 2020**  
**Sunday next before**  
**Lent**

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

8am Holy Communion

10am Holy Communion

*We welcome Rev Chris Bunce to  
lead our Communion services  
today*

**Cake stall in the hall after the  
10am service**

4pm Chenery's In Loving  
Memory Service

**Readings**

Exodus 24.12-18

1 Peter 1.16-21

Matthew 17.1-9

**Hymns**

A&M 4 Christ, whose glory

A&M 318 'Tis good, Lord,

A&M 346 Christ is the world's

SF 14 Teach me to dance

SF2 Lord, the light of your love

**Prayers**

**From the Churches Together in  
Hitchin Prayer Link** we pray for  
**Our Lady's Roman Catholic Church**  
as they hope for a successful  
appointment to succeed Susanna  
Hawksley as sacramental  
co-ordinator.

**From the St Mark's Cycle of  
Prayer, we pray for** Christchurch  
and The Hub Church. We also pray  
for our local media. This week we  
pray for residents of Heathfield  
Road and Stormont Road.

**Prayer Ministry** John will be in the  
side aisle after the service should  
you wish to pray with someone.

**NOTICES**

**Prayers please** With Jane's leaving,  
St Mark's is now looking for a new  
vicar. Our advert is live, and the  
closing date for applications is **5  
March**. Assuming we get suitable

applicants, the interviews will take  
place on **23 March**. Please keep  
praying for those who are seeking  
a new position, and that the  
person that God wants to lead us  
will come forward. Please pray also  
for those who are involved in the  
process of choosing the new vicar,  
that they may have the insight and  
discernment necessary to make  
the right choice.

**A Huge Thank You!** Thank you so  
much to everyone who was  
involved in making our last Sunday  
such a memorable occasion and  
giving us an amazing send  
off. Thank you, too, for all the  
wonderful presents and cards. We  
were thoroughly spoilt! We will  
miss you all very much  
indeed. The Mainwarings

**Gifts for the Mainwaring Family**

Thanks to your generosity we were  
able to give some wonderful  
presents to the Mainwaring family  
as we said goodbye and thank you.  
For Amelie, a lava lamp and a gold  
'A' necklace; for Elliot, a set of  
pliers and multi-head mini-  
screwdriver and a tool  
box/organiser for his hobby; for  
James, a dragon cushion for his  
studio and a rear bike rack for his  
Vespa moped; and for Jane a  
bespoke Silk Cope and Stole and a  
voucher for a new cassock alb; and  
for the whole family, a photobook  
of St Mark's. Our young people  
presented a picture of a tree, each  
leaf made of a fingerprint. It was a  
joyful, if poignant occasion, filled  
with love. Thank you.

**Jane's Collation Service** will be on  
**Saturday 14 March at 2pm**, at St  
Mary's church in Hemel  
Hempstead, when Jane will be  
formally made the Archdeacon of  
St Albans. The service will be  
followed by afternoon tea.  
Everyone is welcome, and we hope  
that as many of the congregation  
as are able will be there to cheer  
Jane on. We would like to know

approximate numbers for catering  
purposes, and also hope to carpool  
(parking is limited). If you are  
planning to go, need a lift or can  
offer one please tell Joy Bennett  
07970 729 733, or  
joy.hammond@btinternet.com

**Coronavirus** In light of recent  
media reporting please be assured  
that we are following guidance  
from the Diocese about the correct  
hygiene precautions to take. We  
are advised that intinction (dipping  
the bread into the wine) is no  
safer than drinking and can  
introduce germs into the  
chalice. It can also harm those  
with immune or allergic conditions,  
eg. those with gluten intolerance  
are at greater risk when others  
have dipped their bread into the  
wine. *So we ask that people refrain  
from intinction please.*

The receiving of communion in one  
kind only, (ie just the bread) is  
sufficient to receive a complete  
and valid Communion. We will  
continue offering the chalice to the  
congregation, but if you feel ill or  
just prefer not to drink from the  
chalice then please receive the  
consecrated bread alone.

**Help needed with Church lunch** on  
the last Friday each month, in the  
church hall. We really need some  
help with transport, general  
organisation and clearing up.  
Please contact Joy Bennett.

**Foodbank** the next collection is  
TODAY Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> February.

**Shirley, Sandra, Deborah and  
Colin** would like to thank everyone  
for all their love and support over  
the few weeks. It has been a great  
help for all us during this difficult  
time. St Marks is the most  
wonderful family, always there for  
each other. So thank you again for  
all the prayers, love, hugs and  
support that has been given to us  
in many different ways.

**The Great Hospital Walk.** On Saturday 28th March we are doing the 17mile Great Hospital Hike from King's College Hospital London to Princess Royal University Hospital Bromley in memory of Paul. We are raising money for the Christine Brown Critical Care Unit where Paul spent the last few days of his illness. We would like to give something back to the wonderful doctors and nurses that supported all of us with love, care and kindness. If you would like to support this great cause please visit:

<http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/deborah-sandra>

Many thanks. **Sandra and Deborah**

The next **Thursday Group meeting on March 5th** is titled "Traditional Treasures" and will be given by Gill & Barry Goodman who are familiar in the local area for Morris dancing and Barn dancing. Their talks are very entertaining and accompanied by music, so it will be a lively evening of historical celebrations. Talks take place in the church hall 7.45 for 8pm start. All welcome, visitors £3 (inc. refreshments).

For further information contact Val Conetta

**Vegan Taster Night** Pippa Lally is hosting a Taster Evening on Friday 28th February 7.30pm in the Church Hall to raise money for Amnesty International as part of her London Marathon Fundraising. For £15 you will get 2 starters, 2 mains, and 3 desserts. We will also have a fully licensed bar. Local businesses who are donating food:- Vutie Beets, Vegan Feast, Nourish, Pizza Express and The Green Kitchen. To find out more or book tickets email Pippa on [amnestyvegan@outlook.com](mailto:amnestyvegan@outlook.com) or call

**Real Easter Eggs** – the only Fairtrade egg with the Easter story! Order form at the back of church.

#### Services and events

##### for Sunday 1 March

8am Holy Communion (said)

10am Holy Communion

*These services will be led by*

*Rev Elizabeth Bunker*

8pm Sunday Social at the Angels

##### Church Diary for w/c 24 Feb

**Wed 26** - 9.15am Morning Prayer

12.30pm CTH Ash Wednesday lunch

**Thurs 27** 6.30pm GWNN

8pm Deanery Synod meeting

**Fri 28** 12.30pm Church Lunch

##### Hall bookings w/c 24 Feb

**Mon 24** 8.30am-3pm Signing class  
7-8pm Tai Chi

**Tues 25** 9.30-12.30 Jo Jingles  
7-9pm NCT

**Wed 26** 5.30-7pm Yoga

**Thurs 27** 12-2pm Hall cleaning

**Fri 28** 6-10pm Vegan Taster Night

#### Don't forget – Church Spring Clean

Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March, 10-3, inside and outside jobs. The more the merrier, and the quicker the jobs will be done! Refreshments provided!

#### Ash Wednesday Lunch

26 February 12.30pm at St Mark's. £5 per person. Children £2.50. Marking the beginning of Lent, a time of thinking of others, this is a simple meal of vegetarian soups, roll, cheese and fruit and a fund raiser for Christian Aid. Bring your friends. It's organised by Churches Together in Hitchin so we will be welcoming guests from other churches. As part of the thinking of others there will be a Traidcraft stall. Further information from Helen Richardson 07880 682681 [helenwrich@btinternet.com](mailto:helenwrich@btinternet.com).

#### Lent Groups 2020 Sign up now

Organised with Churches Together in Hitchin. The list of groups, mostly in people's homes is on the welcome table. This year the subject is about Jesus' last words on the cross. The groups are

informal and you can either join in the discussion or just sit and listen to others. Those who have been to one before recommend them! It's a good way to get to know others as well as hear different views. For more information talk to Helen Richardson 07880 682681

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

#### Electoral Roll 2020 St Mark's

Electoral Roll is being updated in advance of St Mark's Annual Meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> March. If you are not on the Roll already and would like to be please complete a form from the back of church and return it to Maggie Mellersh or in the box provided. Please also inform Maggie of any deletions or changes of address. The closing date for return of forms is 22<sup>nd</sup> March. The updated Electoral Roll will be displayed in church from 29<sup>th</sup> March, when it will be closed until after the Annual Parish Church Meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> April.

#### 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 Joy on 01462 456129

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, for a maximum of two weeks, please email

[notices@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk](mailto:notices@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk)

or ring Maggie on 504003

Please send notices by 7pm on the preceding Wednesday.