



**St Mark's Church Hitchin**

**15<sup>th</sup> March 2020**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent**

**Services & events for  
today**

8am Holy Communion

10am Family Service

11.15am Holy Communion

*We welcome Rev Austin Smith  
to lead our Communion services  
today*

### Readings

Exodus 17. 1-7

Romans 5. 1-11

John 4. 5-42

### Songs for Family Service

**SF 6** Lord, for the years

**Sheet** Noah built the most...

**Sheet** There's nothing worth more

**JP42** Father I place into your hands

**SF 9** Brother, sister, let me serve

### Prayers

**From the Churches Together in  
Hitchin Prayer Link** we pray for

**Phase** who are holding a  
supporters evening event on  
Thursday. We ask that the evening  
will be a success and that people  
would become even more engaged  
with their work as a result.

We also pray for **Wymondley  
Baptist Chapel's** Quiz Night next  
Saturday, and their special  
evangelistic Sunday service on  
29<sup>th</sup> March.

**From the St Mark's Cycle of  
Prayer, we pray for** our organist,  
choir and music group. We also  
pray for people living with drug  
and alcohol addiction in our  
community, and those who  
support them. This week we pray  
for residents of Milestone Road  
and Truemans Road.

Please pray for those involved in  
the process of choosing the new  
vicar, that they have the wisdom,  
insight and discernment necessary  
to make the right choice.

### NOTICES

#### Update on Coronavirus

As advised in a recent letter from  
the Archbishops to all churches, in  
view of the threat to health from  
the Corona Virus, St Mark's will  
now implement the following  
measures with immediate effect:

**\* The chalice (wine) will not be  
offered at all at Holy Communion**

**\* The peace will not be passed in  
any service other than with  
suitable words and a smile**

**\* Physical contact with one  
another (handshakes/hugs/kisses)  
is strongly discouraged as a  
greeting for the period of the  
health emergency.**

Hot water and soap is available in  
the 'disabled' toilet.

We will make hand sanitizers  
available whenever we are able to  
obtain them. There are some in  
church near the Welcomers' table  
now.

Copies of the Archbishops letter  
are on the noticeboards.  
*Let's do whatever we can to keep  
one another safe.*

#### Vacancy Update

Applications have now closed, and  
we are inviting five candidates to  
interview for the position of the  
vicar of St Mark's. The interviews  
will take place on Monday 23  
March. The day will be very busy,  
and includes the candidates  
meeting with groups of  
schoolchildren to be quizzed,  
leading a bible study session, and  
meeting the Ministry team as well  
as the interviews themselves. We  
need volunteers to help drive  
candidates round, provide quiet  
space for lunch breaks, be in a  
Bible study group and some other  
tasks. If you can help, please talk  
to Joy Bennett or Louise Wills.

#### Annual General Meeting: Sunday 29 March, 11.30am

If you receive these weekly notices  
by email, you should automatically  
receive all the AGM papers  
electronically by 15 March. If you  
haven't signed up for email  
communications from St Mark's  
but would like to receive the AGM  
papers in this way, please email  
[deirdresparr@btinternet.com](mailto:deirdresparr@btinternet.com) and I  
will send them to you. Some paper  
copies will also be available in  
church from 15 March for those  
who can't access them  
electronically.

To speed up the meeting, we ask  
everyone to read the reports and  
minutes in advance which means  
that, in spite of the number of  
items on the agenda, the AGM  
usually lasts no longer than an  
hour.

Nomination forms for District  
Church Council (DCC) members (4  
people needed to serve for 3  
years), Deanery Synod  
representatives (2 people to serve  
for 3 years), Churches Together in  
Hitchin (CTH) representatives (4  
people for 1 year) will be available  
in church from Sunday, 15 March.  
Please consider whether you, or  
someone you know, could take on  
one of these roles. Do talk to any  
of the current reps or DCC  
members (photos on the board at  
the back of church) if you'd like to  
know more about what is involved.  
We look forward to seeing you at  
the AGM!

#### St Mark's Craft Fair, Sat 2<sup>nd</sup> May

Please save any good quality books  
or bric-a-brac which could go on a  
church stall, and bring them to  
church nearer the time, or speak  
to Kevin Banks or Val Chamberlain.

**Church Spring Clean** is on Saturday  
21<sup>st</sup> March, 10am-3pm. Please  
come and join us, even if just for  
an hour. The more the merrier!  
Inside and outside jobs available,  
and refreshments of course.

**Services and events  
for Sunday 22 March  
Mothering Sunday**

8am Holy Communion (said)  
10am Family Communion  
*Rev Fizz Gibbs will preside at our  
communion service*

**Church Diary for w/c 16 March**

**Wed 18** - 9.15am Morning Prayer  
**Fri 20** 9.30am Little Lions  
**Sat 21** 11am Church Spring Clean

**Hall bookings w/c 16 March**

**Mon 16** 8.30am-3pm Signing class  
7-8pm Tai Chi  
**Tues 17** 9.30-12.30 Jo Jingles  
7-9pm NCT Yoga  
**Wed 18** 11.30-12.30 Tai Chi  
5.30-7pm Yoga  
7.30-9pm Private booking  
**Thurs 19** 12-2pm Hall cleaning  
7-10pm Private booking

**Lent 2020** – Do take a flyer from the welcome table explaining the 2 ways we're marking Lent this year. Our **Lent Appeal** is for **Embrace the Middle East**, and there are leaflets and gift envelopes, plus gift aid forms now available, or you can donate via the church website. Please do take these and consider whether you can make a donation. There is also information on the flyer about **LiveLent 2020** – the Church of England's Campaign focussing on climate change, and challenging us to take action.

**Messy St Mark's 19<sup>th</sup> March and Good Friday.** We still need more jam jars please, and empty cereal boxes. Please leave at the back of the church. Thank you.

**Real Easter Eggs** – the only Fairtrade Egg which includes the Easter story! They are plastic and palm oil free, and cost £3.99 for original and £5.50 for dark. Order form is at the back of church or speak to Maggie Mellersh.

**St Patrick's Day themed Ceilidh –  
Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March**

In aid of Amnesty International and Children with Cancer. Tickets £20 to include loaded pulled pork baps and mouthwatering Irish desserts (veggie, vegan and gluten free options available). Contact [drurys26.2@outlook.com](mailto:drurys26.2@outlook.com) for more information or to book tickets.

**At the Foot of the Cross:  
A meditation in music for  
Passiontide**

Friday 27 March 7.30 at Holy Saviour Church with the Holy Saviour Choir & the Radcliffe Singers. £13/£9  
Call 01462 675496 for more details

**Meditation Day at Our Lady's**

People of all faiths and none are invited to an experience of Christian Meditation on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March, 10.30am-2pm. Shared lunch will be provided. For more information contact Mary Dawson on 01462 713872

**The Electoral Roll** is being updated in advance of St Mark's AGM on 29<sup>th</sup> March. If you are not on the Roll already and would like to join 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. 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.

**Job Club** begins again on Wed 26<sup>th</sup> March 10-12 at Zeo Centre, Bedford Road. If you, or someone you know is looking for work, they can come and get invaluable support to retrain and/or re-join the job market. For more info contact 07931 833838

**Felici Opera presents Time for Tea!** A short concert of light music including popular items from opera, operetta and musical theatre, followed by tea and cake and chat. Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April 3.30-5.30pm at Pirton Village Hall. £10 in support of the Lister Hospital's appeal for funds to purchase the Da Vinci Single Port to assist surgeons carrying out complicated prostate and urology operations. Tickets from 01462 711339



**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*

**DO PLEASE TAKE THESE NOTICES  
HOME WITH YOU**

*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.*