

**Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2021**  
**Third Sunday of Easter**

**Readings for 18<sup>th</sup> April**

Acts chapter 19 verses 1-7

John chapter 14 verses 15-27

*Our readings are linked with our sermon series based on the Apostle's creed. This Sunday we are looking at the phrase "I believe in the Holy Spirit."*



**PRAYERS:- From Churches Together in Hitchin:** - We give thanks to God for the pastoral care that has been given to vulnerable members of our community. We pray today for Janet Graham and the deacons at **Walsworth Road Baptist Church** as they continue to identify and support some of those in greatest need.

**From St Mark's Prayer Cycle:-** We pray for our organist, and for plans for the virtual music group. We also hope that soon we will be allowed to sing in church, and our choir can meet again. This week we pray for people living with drug and alcohol addiction and the agencies who support them.

**This week please pray for the residents of Milestone Road and Truemans Road.**

**Prayer Requests** – please send any prayer requests for the whole church to pray for to Andrew, who will then pass them on to the groups. Do contact your own group to ask for prayer too.

**CHURCH DIARY** - links for online services will be sent by email on Saturday morning.

*Because we are limiting numbers in church please email Maggie on [admin@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk](mailto:admin@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk) if you would like to book a place for a Sunday service in church.*

**Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> April** – **All-Age Service** at 10am on Zoom.

**Holy Communion** service at 11.15am in church only.

**Service of the Word** on Youtube.

**Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April** – **Reading & reflection** with Nick on Youtube

**Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> April** – **Morning Prayer** in church at 9.15am. No need to book.

**Online Morning Prayer** on Zoom at 9.15am.

**Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> April** – **Reading & reflection** with Andrew on Youtube.

**Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> April** – **Communion service at 10am.** Blended service (in church, livestreamed & uploaded to Youtube).

**Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> May** – All-Age Service at 10am on Zoom. **Holy Communion** service at 11.15am in church only. **Service of the Word** on Youtube.

**Remember** – if you would like to receive reminder emails about the Youtube services during the week please let Andrew know via [admin@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk](mailto:admin@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk)

*This week our friends without computers will receive a copy of Nick's sermon from Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> April.*

## **CHURCH & COMMUNITY NEWS**

### **Seeking new DCC members**

We are looking for two more members of St Mark's to join our church council - the DCC! The role primarily involves attending DCC meetings, where we discuss the life of our church and how we operate - both practically and spiritually. You don't have to be a big talker, or have revolutionary new ideas (although talking and ideas are both welcome!): just a heart to serve St Mark's and be involved in this way. If you would like to know more, put yourself forward, or nominate somebody you think would be suitable, please get in touch with Deirdre or Nick via [admin@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk](mailto:admin@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk)

### **The Duke of Edinburgh**

Joy has sent a copy of her poem, below, to the Queen, with condolences on the death of her husband, Prince Philip. All who have lost someone dear will be moved by the sentiments expressed.

#### At A Time of Loss

Fortress heart stronghold of mine,  
Wisdom seek and solace find  
Amid the depths of dark despair,  
In grief my broken soul repair.

Keep safe the memories and hold  
Them dear and very often told,  
So, with the passing of the years,  
Joy and comfort will replace the tears.

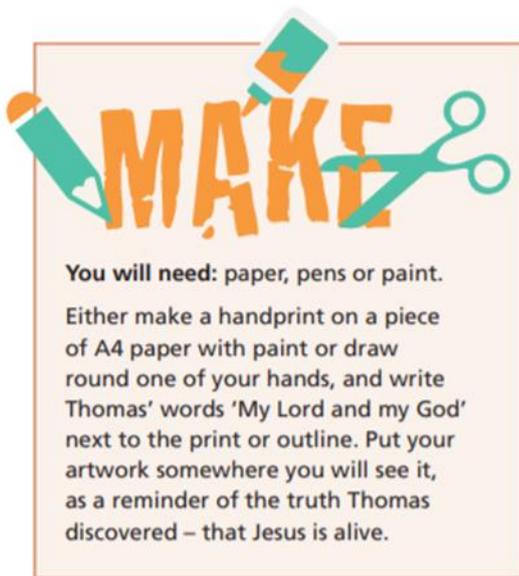
Moat of sadness deep though now.  
Erase the furrowed grief torn brow,  
Seek and let me find at last,  
Peace and faith to hold me fast.

My love for you is ever strong,  
My strength and stay for ages long,  
You are still beside me now as ever,  
My love for you will lessen never.

Joy Bennett xxxxx

### Calling all musicians & singers...

Over the next few weeks Isabelle and myself (Marie) would like to organise for people to create a video of one of our worship songs (not sure which one yet!). This would entail people recording themselves playing an instrument or singing at home and then we will produce this into a video. Since we still can't have the orchestra, we thought it would be the next best thing. So if you want to join in, then let me know. If you want to support the tech production side of things you are also very welcome. Like all new digital ventures, I am sure we will work it out as we go along! Please email me via [admin@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk](mailto:admin@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk) to let me know you are interested - Thanks!



**Sunday School** – although we are not able to hold Sunday School in person at the moment, our St Mark's team have been working hard behind the scenes and send out stories, activities and games to our church families every week that isn't an All-Age Service. The material is linked to the Lectionary readings for that Sunday and comes from an organisation called Roots. Here is a [link](#) to the activity sheet sent out for last Sunday which was based on the reading about "Doubting Thomas" which you might like to have a look at. You could also try the craft idea in the box!

### Assistant Communications Officer – part time

We are seeking an assistant to the Diocesan

Director of Communications who will bring public facing communications experience, website and social media skills together with the ability to manage a demanding and varied workload. Please see job pack below for further information and details of how to apply.

[Assistant Communications Officer Appointment Pack](#)

Closing date: 12 noon, Friday 23rd April 2021

Can be found at <https://www.stalbans.anglican.org/diocese/other-vacancies/#>!

**St Mark's Electoral Roll 2021** The revision of St Mark's Electoral Roll will start on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> April and close on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> May. The Roll is a kind of church membership list and has the names of everyone who can vote at a parish's Annual Meeting. Anyone can be on the Roll who is over 16 years old, and baptised, and either lives in the parish or has worshipped at the church (or with the church online) regularly for at least six months. If you're not on the Roll and would like to be, or if any of your details have changed (name or address) since last year please let Maggie know on [admin@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk](mailto:admin@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk)

**Safeguarding** is everyone's responsibility. If you have any concerns, please contact our safeguarding officer, Pauline via [admin@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk](mailto:admin@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk)

### [MM1] **Herts Environment Hustings**

North Herts Friends of the Earth has joined with other FoE groups in Hertfordshire to organise a county council election hustings focussing on the climate and ecological crises. The Hustings will take place online (via Zoom) from 7pm on **Monday 19th April** and you can book your place now at:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-hertfordshire-environment-hustings-meet-county-election-candidates-tickets-149304039401>

Each of the main political parties contesting the elections on 6th May – Conservative, Green, Labour and Liberal Democrat - will have two representatives on the online panel. The candidates will be responding to a number of questions notified in advance, as well as a selection of those submitted by audience members during the event.

The chair of the event will be 92.6fm Radio Verulam's Nick Hazell.

St.Albans Friends of the Earth Coordinator Amanda Yorwerth said:

*'Herts County Council makes so many decisions that affect our environment – from cycle lanes on roads to waste incinerators and from managing road verges for pollinators to Meat Free Mondays in schools – so the elections coming up on 6th May are really important. We hope that the hustings we're planning will give everyone who thinks that we should be tackling urgent environmental issues the chance to make an informed decision at the ballot box'.*

All welcome. Book your place now to guarantee attendance!

### **A Case of Mistaken Identity!** By Clare

This is a true account of an incident that happened recently. I wonder if the title should really be SURELY THERE ISN'T ANOTHER PERSON LIKE ME, FOR EVERYONE TO PUT UP WITH!

It was on a Saturday morning when we went into town to meet some friends. We decided to walk through Elmside Walk on the Butts Close side.

There were all sorts of people around, dog walkers, joggers, boot camp participants and walkers like us. Realising we were a bit early to meet our friends we decided to sit on a bench. People passing by said hello, and commented about the weather, which was lovely. But then a lady passed us and said hello with a real grin on her face. As she walked on she suddenly stopped and turned around. We weren't sure what to expect, but she said "You are the lady from Shefford who has a boat aren't you?"

I said no, and very apologetically she walked on, wishing us a good day. As you can imagine we were in fits of laughter – all the years he has known me and didn't know about my boat! Poor soul, whoever she is, if she's like me!



Still it shows how we really are one of a kind – there will never be another you as the song goes – or me.

*If you would like to have a notice included please email  
notices@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk  
Please send notices by 7pm on the preceding Wednesday.*

