

Sunday 25th April 2021
Fourth Sunday of Easter

Readings for 25th April

1 Peter chapter 2 verses 4-10

John chapter 17 verses 20-26

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 catholic church"

PRAYERS:- From Churches Together in Hitchin: - Zeo Church ask that we please join with them in prayer for their home groups as they follow their course entitled 'the wellbeing journey' which looks at every aspect of life. Similarly **Christchurch** ask for your prayers in support of their small groups. May their members continue to support one another whether through shared Christian study via Zoom, through practical pastoral care or simply through showing Christian friendship in some way during these challenging times.



From St Mark's Prayer Cycle:- The Messy St Mark's team; Group with No Name, and uniformed groups, who are making tentative steps towards meeting in person again. We also pray this week for those living with HIV, AIDS, hepatitis and coronavirus.

This week please pray for the residents of Mulberry Way, Beechwood Close, Bedford 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 if you would like to book a place for a Sunday service in church.

Sunday 25th April – 10am Holy Communion service in church, livestreamed and uploaded to Youtube later.

Monday 26th April – Reading & reflection with John on Youtube

Wednesday 28th April – Morning Prayer in church at 9.15am. No need to book.
Online Morning Prayer on Zoom at 9.15am.

Friday 30th April – Reading & reflection with Nick on Youtube.

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

Sunday 9th May – 10am Holy Communion service. Blended service (in church, livestreamed & uploaded to Youtube). Followed by the **AGM** – see notices below.

This week our friends without computers will receive a copy of Andrew's sermon from Sunday 18th April.

CHURCH & COMMUNITY NEWS

St Mark's Annual General Meeting in church and on Zoom on Sunday 9 May at 11.15am

Having adapted to "blended" services over the last few weeks, we are going to hold our AGM both in person in church and on Zoom in the hope that this will allow as many of you as possible to join us for this meeting which offers a chance to get a full picture of the life of our church and, of course, to elect the various officers and reps, such as church wardens, District Church Council members, Parochial Church Council and Churches Together in Hitchin reps.

Attending the AGM

As it will be impossible to clean the building between the service and the meeting, for those of you wishing to attend the AGM in person we have to ask you, please, to book a place at the 10am service. There will be a chance to go outside and stretch your legs for about 10 minutes after the service before returning to the same seat. Just book your place in the usual way with Maggie. While we hope you will be able to stay on for the AGM after the service, if that's not possible you will, of course, be allowed to leave!

Joining by Zoom

For those joining in at home the Zoom link will be the same for both the service and the AGM and Maggie will send the link on the Saturday as usual.

Reports & paperwork for the AGM

In the week beginning 25 April all the papers for the meeting will be emailed to those of you who get the email notices, or delivered as paper copies to those without computers. There will be a small number of paper copies available in church on the day of the meeting. If you know you will need a hard copy, please let me know, which will help to avoid printing too many.

Do contact me via admin@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk if you would like any more information. I look forward to seeing you at the AGM!

Deirdre



Serving our communities since 1965

Lent Appeal 2021

The final total of contributions during Lent in response to the appeal on behalf of the Princess Basma Centre, run by the Anglican Church in Jerusalem, is £1,491.85. This is a wonderfully generous amount, all the more remarkable given the challenging circumstances we are experiencing at the moment. It will be sent to Embrace the Middle East, the UK Christian charity supporting the Centre as it develops its great work among Palestinian

children with physical and mental disabilities and their families, who have been so deeply affected by the pandemic.

Many thanks to all of you who have contributed so generously.

John Richardson on behalf of the St Mark's Mission Giving Team



Seeking new DCC member

We are looking for one more member 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.

Are you on St Mark's Electoral Roll 2021? 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

The Roll will be open for revision up until Wednesday 5th May.

Prayer
*Where to start
& how to keep going*



The national Church of England have just started a series of email reflections from Stephen Cottrell, Archbishop of York, on prayer. You will receive a daily email until 30th April, looking at different aspects of

prayer. They're short, readable, practical and encouraging! You can sign up on the Church of England's website: [here](#).

Job Opportunity - The Diocese is advertising for a full-time **Estates Administrative Assistant**. Further details are available from

<https://www.stalbans.anglican.org/diocese/other-vacancies/>.

The closing date for applications is noon on Tuesday 4 May.

Animal ball obsession

Hello folks. Just recently our pup “Georgie Girl Flossy Pants Bennett” has become obsessed not only with her own tennis ball toys but also with balls of any sort on the TV. Football, Rugby, Tennis, Golf etc etc. She stands on her hind legs as close to the TV as she can get barking furiously at the set then running up and down following the flow of the game as it spans across the screen. In frustration at a missed goal, try or putt the poor old stuffed Duck toy gets it and is shaken in an effort to dispel Georgie’s anger and annoyance. Years ago I had two cats who were Snooker fans and used to disappear round the back of the TV when balls were pocketed from an overhead view of the table. They are so clever aren’t they and their view of the world so simple. Joy xx

*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.*

