

Sunday 2nd May 2021
Fifth Sunday of Easter

Readings for 2nd May

Hebrews chapter 12 verses 1-3

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 communion of saints"

PRAYERS:- From Churches Together in Hitchin: - Our Lady's Roman Catholic church ask that today we join with many other churches in prayers for all Victims and Survivors of Abuse particularly those within our churches.



From St Mark's Prayer Cycle:- This week we give thanks and pray for our church cleaners, gardeners, flower arrangers and all who maintain the church building. We also pray for the Hitchin Street Angels.

This week please pray for the residents of Firs Close, Maxwells Path, Frank Young Court and Willow Tree Way

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

Monday 3rd May – Reading & reflection with John on Youtube

Wednesday 5th May – Morning Prayer in church at 9.15am. No need to book.
Online Morning Prayer on Zoom at 9.15am.

Friday 7th May – Reading & reflection with Andrew on Youtube.

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

Sunday 16th May – 10am All Age service on Zoom. 11.15am Holy Communion service in church only. **Service of the Word** on Youtube.

This week our friends without computers will receive a copy of the sermon given by Gail Adcock on Sunday 25th April.

CHURCH & COMMUNITY NEWS

6pm Prayers – *Following a ‘tip-off’ from someone at St Mark’s, the Litterick family received this surprise email from the Archbishop of Canterbury’s office recently. They would like to pass it on to anyone who joined them in prayers from last November, through Advent and up to Easter.*

Dear Gail,

You may not have been expecting this email but I write from the Office of Archbishop Justin to express deep appreciation and thanks for all that you and your family have been doing in leading daily prayers at 6.00pm over the past months, in response to the two Archbishops’ call.

I know that you, ably assisted by Hannah and Imogen, faithfully maintained your rhythm of daily evening prayers right up to Holy Week. This was a tremendous act of witness, which I know has been deeply appreciated in your local community and has embraced people beyond the congregation of St Mark’s. You have been an example to us all.

Thank you so much for all that you have done. May God bless you and your family.

All good wishes.

Cortland Fransella.



The Reverend Cortland Fransella Lambeth Awards Officer and Acting Chaplain to the Archbishop

Friday 6pm Drinks & Prayers – everyone is welcome to join the Litterick family on Zoom for a time to catch up with a drink and have a short time of prayer together. The link is [here](#)

Meeting ID: 739 0569 4919

Passcode: mEM4Tf

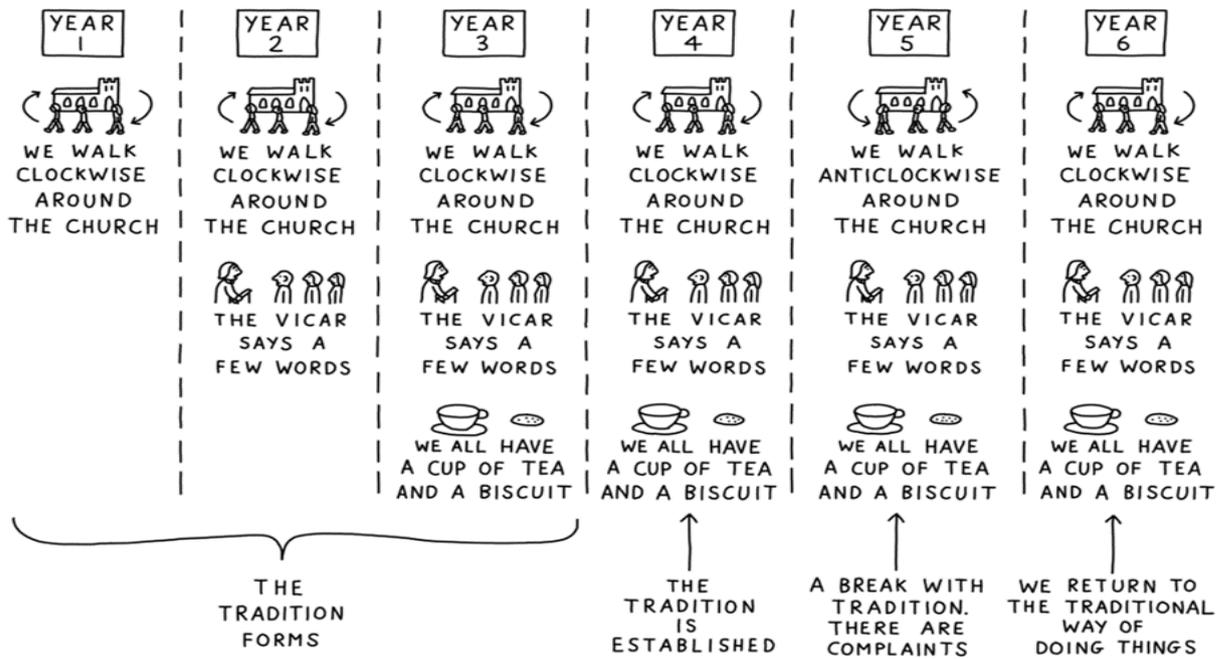


Christian Aid Week May 10 to 16 This is Christian Aid's 75th year of supporting the very poor in the world where people are often forgotten by those in power. The focus this year is Kenya where water supplies are suffering from climate change. People are having to walk long distances to

collect water. The money will be used to build Earth dams to trap water nearer to homes. See their website for more information. Envelopes for your donations will be in churches in Hitchin and villages. Should you prefer to donate online please go to www.caweek.org. If you would like an envelope delivering to you please contact Helen Richardson via admin@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk

TRADITION

HOW IT DEVELOPS



CartoonChurch.com

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 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 (DCC Secretary)



Serving our communities since 1965

Lent Appeal 2021

We have received another donation, so 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 £1,511.85. 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



The Church of England and Racism – some of you may have watched the recent BBC Panorama programme, titled 'Is the Church racist?' which was very challenging and sobering. The Archbishop of York gave a brief talk at the General Synod last week, setting out the Church's response. It is an interesting and thought-provoking read and you can find a copy

of it [here](#).

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.

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.

Phobias

I have several friends who have a fear of spiders, arachnophobia, one can't even deal with the teeniest money spider and almost passes out if one appears. I can deal with all spiders of any, variety, size or hairiness. I can pick them up, give them a cuddle, have a chat before

putting them in a safe place. However, give me a wild mushroom in an unexpected place and I am in a state of severe stress!!! It appears that I suffer from mycophobia, who knew. I have been on a dog walk in the woods and come across my worst nightmare – a puff ball mushroom!!!! I freeze to the spot and my knees go wobbly . I am not too bad in shops but will avoid the mushroom displays if possible. What is even weirder is that I actually like to eat them – work that out. Am I alone? The Husband laughs at me but you should see him when a wasp comes within a 100 yards!!!!

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.*

