

Sunday 16th May 2021
Seventh Sunday of Easter

We have some very full Notices this week, so do keep reading down!

1. Readings, prayers & 6pm Prayers & drinks
2. Church diary
3. CTH meeting
4. Summer of fun – plans for St Mark's!
5. Messages of thanks
6. After Church coffee starting again!
7. Christian Aid Week
8. *How to Read the Bible for All its Worth*, with Nick
9. Church Cake Stall
10. Hitchin Food Rescue Hub
11. Job Vacancies at the Diocese
12. Living with Covid – webinar details
13. Church lampshades – free to a good home
14. Recycling blister pack info
15. Joy's Random Thoughts

Readings for 16th May

Acts chapter 1 verses 15-17, 21 – end

John chapter 17 verses 6 - 19

This week our 10am Zoom All-Age service will be thinking about Christian Aid week, and the 11.15am service in church will be led by Rev Fizz Gibbs, following the Lectionary readings.



PRAYERS:- From Churches Together in Hitchin: Please remember in prayer the Churches Together in Hitchin Council meeting this coming Tuesday. We pray that it may be a fruitful time of reflecting on where we are and planning for the future. **Wymondley Baptist Church** will be taking part in the 'Thy

Kingdom Come' prayer project 13th - 23rd May. Please pray that there would be great enthusiasm in committing to prayer family members, friends and other people 'into the Kingdom' and that all will be faithful and persistent in their prayers.

From St Mark's Prayer Cycle:- we pray for our friends in Westmill Lawns, and look forward to being able to resume our ministry and services there. We also pray this week for people with visual, hearing and speech impairment.

This week please pray for the residents of Bearton Green, Bearton Road, Bearton Court, Bearton Close

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.

Friday 6pm prayers and drink

Do join us on Zoom for prayers on Friday at 6pm. We are continuing this weekly at the moment until all restrictions are lifted. We use the opportunity to gather and pray for current pressing issues, check in and say cheers with a glass of whatever suits.

Be lovely for Hannah and Imogen to meet with you, see you Friday at 6pm!

Gail

Contact admin@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk for the Zoom link.

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

Monday 17th May – Reading & reflection with Martha Inch on Youtube

Tuesday 18th May – CTH meeting – see below

Wednesday 19th May – Morning Prayer in church at 9.15am. No need to book.

Online Morning Prayer on Zoom at 9.15am.

Friday 21st May – Reading & reflection with on Andrew on Youtube.

Sunday 23rd May – Pentecost – 10am Holy Communion service, blended (in church, livestreamed on Zoom and uploaded to Youtube later).

Sunday 30th May – Trinity Sunday – 10am Holy Communion service, blended.

This week our friends without computers will receive a copy of the reflection given by Nick on Monday 10th May.

Churches Together in Hitchin Council

The next meeting of the CTH Council is this coming Tuesday, 18th May, 8.00 pm by Zoom. It will begin with a presentation by Tom Hardy, the Hitchin Town Centre Manager, on his vision and plans, then there will be reports on what has been/will be happening in our work together. All are welcome - contact John via admin@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk for Zoom joining instructions

CHURCH & COMMUNITY NEWS



Summer of Fun

It's been a tough year-and-a-bit, hasn't it? St Mark's has done amazingly at holding together as a community, but Nick and the team feel that we need a time of joyful re-gathering as a church, once covid restrictions allow. In that spirit St Mark's is declaring a 'summer of fun', where we celebrate and enjoy being together again.

How can you help? Well, we've already got some ideas we'll need *help* with: a sports day, a fun day, bbq's and cream tea in a garden (to name a few). If you'd be willing to volunteer, let Nick, Louise or Joy Bennett know... Or, perhaps you've got an *idea for something fun* we can do together either as a whole church or smaller groups. Again, get in touch with Nick, Louise or Joy to see if it's something we can do!

Thank you messages

Marie-France and Julian would like to thank everyone for their prayers and messages of love and support for Marie-France while she was unwell over the last few months. It was greatly appreciated and of great comfort to both of us. We are happy to report that she is now well on the road to recovery after her surgery.

Brigid - Brigid's son, Simon, wants to pass on his thanks to all who sent cards and condolences after the recent death of his mother. He and the family are grateful for the support given to her by members of St Mark's during her life, and the kindness to her family following her death.



Coffee after Church! As we move to stage three of the Government's roadmap, we hope from **Sunday 23 May** to begin having tea and coffee after the services again. We have thought carefully about how to do this, and suitable precautions will be in place - we will be outside in the area by the memorial garden, so it will only happen if the weather allows! Tea, coffee and squash will be provided but no biscuits (although you are welcome to BYO). **Please bring your own mug & teaspoon** to save handling things that others have touched. And again to minimise handling, a few tables and chairs will be provided but only for those who

cannot easily stand. We do need some volunteers, both to pour drinks (by yourself or with a member of your household) and also to carry tables and chairs for those who need them. Please contact Maggie or Louise to volunteer.



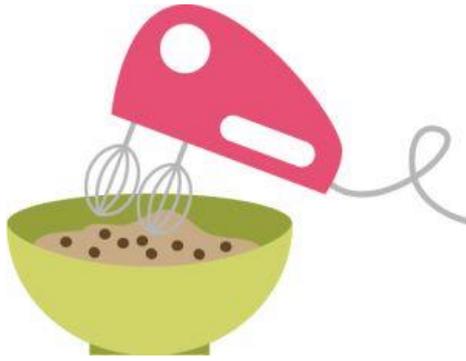
**Christian Aid Week
10 - 16 May**

How would you feel if each time you needed water you had to walk miles for it? Due to the climate crisis this is happening in many parts of the world. In Kenya one woman, Rose is 68 years old and despite pains in her legs, walks six hours each day to get water. Christian Aid

is building earth dams to contain rain water nearer to homes to cut down on the walking. Bags of cement costing £6 each are used to make a dam. You may wish to contribute using the envelopes provided in church, or I can deliver one to you. Or you can donate on line at caweek.org.uk Let's help all we can for people like Rose.

How to Read the Bible for All its Worth

Wouldn't we all like to be able to read the Bible for all it's worth? Instead of being put off by the weird bits or confused by the hard bits? Well, if you'd be interested in learning with one another about how to get the most out of the Bible, then Nick will be leading a group (once we can freely meet again) to go through a book, conveniently titled *How to Read the Bible for All It's Worth* (by Gordon Fee and Douglas Stuart). It's described as "A practical approach to Bible study in an easy-to-understand style". To signal your interest, just get in touch with Nick. He can promise a beverage and snacks as part of the deal...



Cake Stall - date for your diary... sadly last year we couldn't hold our traditional cake stalls in the Market Square, although we did have a fun Virtual Cake Stall last Spring. This year we have booked a stall on **Saturday 5th June**, in the Square. We hope that this will be a great opportunity to show the town that St Mark's and the other churches are alive and well, and also to do some successful fundraising by selling lots of cakes! More details to follow, but please mark this date on

your calendar and get your baking kit at the ready. Contact Debbie or Maggie on admin@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk

Hitchin Food Rescue Hub The Hub continues to collect surplus food from supermarkets across the county, which would otherwise be sent to landfill, and make it available at various centres.

The Hitchin one is **The Half Moon pub in Queen Street**, every **Thursday morning from 9.30 to 11.00**. It normally has a stock of bread, fruit, vegetables and miscellaneous unexpected items, and the aim is to ensure that everything is taken - a donation of £5 is suggested but not demanded. Anyone is welcome – the aim is to help the environment by reducing waste. A tip - there is usually a queue until about 10.00 then things become quieter, though of course some of the more exotic products may have gone! If you would like to know more, have a word with Helen or John Richardson.

Vacancies at the Diocese of St Albans Offices

We have a number of vacancies being advertised, including a Diocesan Secretary (like the CEO), part-time schools' admissions officer, someone to facilitate repair and maintenance work to clergy housing across the diocese, as well as marketing for the Cathedral, or someone to look after legal process and liaise with parishes. This is an opportunity to work in a friendly setting, where you will feel valued, and serve God through supporting the administration of the church. If you would like to find out more, please visit <https://www.stalbans.anglican.org/diocese/other-vacancies/>.

Living with COVID: Support available to Hertfordshire residents

Wednesday 26 May, 11:00-12:30, via Zoom

As the country moves out of lockdown, we move into a new phase of tackling Covid-19. Vaccination efforts are doing a fantastic job in reducing cases and protecting people from the most harmful effects of the virus. However, we know vaccines will not eradicate the virus and therefore we will all need to learn to 'live with Covid' whilst we strive to keep cases as low as possible.

The ongoing knock-on impacts of Covid-19 will become clearer over the course of the year – not least its effect on the economy, employment and people's mental health.

With this in mind, the Hertfordshire Community Reassurance Cell (CRC) would like to invite you to a webinar outlining the support available to Hertfordshire residents as we move into this new phase of recovery.

The CRC was established last year as part of Hertfordshire's emergency planning and recovery structures to provide leadership and reassurance to Hertfordshire residents during these challenging times.

This event will be an opportunity to continue to discuss the impact the pandemic is having on the county's most vulnerable residents, whilst also learning what support is available to them. We hope you will join us for this event. To register, please click here: [Living with COVID: Support available to Hertfordshire residents](#)



Church Lampshades: as we have beautiful new lampshades in church the previous ones are taking up valuable storage space, If anyone would like one please contact me before they are removed. There are two shapes. One globe and the other more elongated. See photos.



Recycling blister packs. A friend in St Ippolytes belongs to a Rotary Club who are now able to collect these for recycling and fund raising. SO much better than going to landfill! A container will be provided in church or you can contact me when you have some. I'll either collect or you can deliver them to me. Helen

Purely Random Thoughts

Back to weather cocks how are they designed so the head always points in the direction of the prevailing wind?

Is it better to be an optimist or a pessimist? I am the latter. This is because if I fear the worse then I am constantly surprised and grateful when things work out well. To me every silver lining has a cloud, this means I am never upset or disappointed.

Life events happen or are given to us for reasons by a greater force than we know. They make us stronger and wiser. Likewise with coincidence.

Reading expands the mind but writing liberates the soul.

Music stirs emotions that are hidden within us that nothing else can reach. The greatest tunes and songs are given to us by the birds in the glory of the dawn chorus. They herald the joy of a brand new day. No worries or problems just pure delight at the rising sun and the hopes and prospect of life beginning afresh. Let us take a lesson from them eh. Love 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.*

