

Sixth Form Concert at St Mark's, 7.30pm on 23 March

Once again, St Mark's will be providing the venue for final year music students from the three Hitchin secondary schools to perform their examination pieces. Tickets available today in church from Shirley Basford: £3 for adults, £1 for children of 12 or under.

Recycling of Writing Instruments

Thank you very much to all who have put their used writing materials into the box at the back of church to help raise money for North Herts Sanctuary. A full box has already been dispatched. *Terracycle* will accept used pens, felt tips, highlighters and markers, mechanical pencils and correction instruments. Please note that they do not accept rulers, glue containers, rubbers, lead pencils and crayons. Keep up the good work!
Alison Smith

Notice Sheet

Please send notices for inclusion in this weekly sheet by 7pm Wednesday to deirdre.parr@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk or ring Deirdre on 456184.

St Mark's extends a warm welcome to newcomers.
If you are new here, please complete and detach this slip and give it to a warden or a sidesperson.

Name

Address

Tel.No.

Email address (if applicable)
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How to contact us

While a few telephone numbers of church members may be included in this web version of the notice sheet, most contact details for events are published only in the hard copy, available in church. If you have no access to this, please contact Deirdre Parr, one of the churchwardens, on 01462 456184 or e-mail deirdre.parr@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk

St Mark's Church Hitchin

A member of Churches Together in Hitchin

16th March 2014

Second Sunday of Lent

Readings for today

Genesis 12:1-4

Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

John 3:1-17



: to be read in church

Services today

8.00am	Holy Communion (p59 in folder)
10.00am	Family and Parade Service (separate booklet)
11.15am	Holy Communion (p59 in folder)

For prayer:

We pray for all those in our town who are attending the Lent groups. May they learn more about the Christian faith and about what God wants them to do in the future.

PLEASE TAKE THESE NOTICES HOME WITH YOU

If you wish to receive this notice sheet via email in future, please send an email to deirdre.parr@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk

website: www.stmarks-hitchin.org.uk



Hymns for 10.00am

Today's hymns are printed in the service booklet

Diary for the week

Tue 18 March	7.30pm	Confirmation Group
Wed 19 March	9.15am	Morning Prayer No choir practice
Fri 21 March	9.30am	Little Lions

Next Sunday, 23 March – Third Sunday of Lent

8.00am	Holy Communion
10.00am	Holy Communion
11.30am	Annual General Meeting
12.30pm	AGM Lunch
7.30pm	Sixth Form Concert

Notices

Confirmation Group

After an introductory session this past week, the first proper session of our adult confirmation group begins this Tuesday, 7.30-8.30pm. The group is meeting at Holy Saviour Vicarage in St Anne's Road and is being led by Revd Ian Todd (Team Vicar at Holy Saviour) and Jane. It is not too late to join in this Tuesday so if you're interested in coming along or would like more details please contact Jane on 434686 or jane@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk

Giving, Time and Talents

Please help us plan for the coming year by returning your yellow forms (and Gift Aid form) by next Sunday, 23 March.

Cake stall in the Market Place on Saturday, 22 March

We shall be having another bumper cake stall on 22 March from 8.30am until we sell out. We would welcome contributions of cakes, preserves etc or, if you're not a cake-maker, money to buy ingredients. If you would like cakes to be collected, please contact Joy Hukin, Linda Sandy or me. Thank you for your continued support of these stalls.

Judy Page

Annual General Meeting: 23 March, 11.30am

Our Annual General Meeting is fast approaching and, in preparation for it, there are sheets at the back of church asking for nominations for people to serve on the District Church Council for the next three years, for Churchwardens and for various other roles. Please do take a look and consider whether you might be able to fill one of the roles. Please also pick up a copy of the reports and the church accounts to read in advance of the meeting.

AGM Lunch

Following the AGM next Sunday, we would like to invite you to join us for a hot lunch at 12.30pm in the hall. There will be a small charge for the lunch and if people need lifts home at the end of it, that can easily be arranged. If you would like to join us, please sign the list today on the table at the back of church.

Electoral Roll

The Electoral Roll is our church membership list. We encourage everyone who considers themselves a member of our church family to be on the electoral roll. Being on the roll doesn't commit you to anything; it is just a way of saying that you are part of our church family. If you would like to be on the electoral roll, please pick a form up from church or talk to Jane. **Please return your form by next Sunday, 23 March.**

St Mark's Friday Lunch

Following our Silver Survey, there seemed to be a good level of support for a monthly weekday lunch. Therefore, we are launching our 'St Mark's Friday Lunch' on Friday 11 April, with the intention that it will take place on the second Friday of each month from 12.30pm. It will be a hot lunch of soup, main course and pudding. The cost will be £5.00 per person. There is no lower or upper age limit for coming to 'Friday Lunch', so anyone who fancies a lunch and a chance to sit and chat with others is very welcome. As with any new venture, we will be keen to have feedback and comments from people, and we'll adapt as we go along. If you would like to come but need a lift, then please don't let that put you off. Talk to Jane and a lift will be arranged. For this first 'Friday Lunch' it would be very useful to know who is intending to come. Therefore, there is a sheet on the welcomers' table at the back of church for people to sign, so we can get a feel for how many we're catering for. We look forward to your company.

St Mark's Lent Appeal 2014 - Syrian refugees

Each year, St Mark's organises a Lent Appeal, an opportunity for each of us to observe the season by self-denial and generosity to others. This year, the proceeds will go to Syrian refugees via Christian Aid's Syria Crisis Appeal. Over six million people have been displaced as a result of the fighting; many are living in cramped and overcrowded conditions in camps within Syria itself and in neighbouring countries. Their plight is desperate and Christian Aid has appealed for money to provide essentials such as food, water containers, hygiene and sanitation kits, emergency shelters and short-term work opportunities, as well as support for those suffering psychologically. Among the refugees are many women and children, often without fathers, and they also include members of the historic Syrian Christian community who have experienced not just the effects of civil war but also persecution because of their faith.

Gift envelopes, together with information about the crisis, are available at the back of the church today. If you would like to know more, have a word with Helen or John Richardson - 01462 435595. Thanks in advance for your support.

A Fairtrade stall will be available on Sunday, 23 March. NEW are fairtrade ecological cleaning materials! Easter eggs with the Easter story in the packaging will be on sale too. Catalogues with lots of lovely clothing and household goods will be available to order from. Further information from Helen Richardson helenwrich@btinternet.com or 435595

Ash Wednesday lunch

A good number of people from different churches attended the annual Churches Together in Hitchin Ash Wednesday lunch, held for the first time at Wymondley Baptist Church. It was a great opportunity to see the church and be welcomed by its congregation - and £150.60 was raised for Christian Aid. Many thanks to all.

Summer Fair on 19 July in the Market Place

Thank you to the individuals and groups who have offered to run stalls at our summer fair in July. We currently have 8 stalls. If anyone else would like to run a stall, please talk to Linda Sandy or Joy Hukin. Nearer the time there will be opportunities for people to contribute items to the stalls (e.g. books, good quality bric-a-brac, children's toys, plants, tombola prizes, cakes etc) an

Appeal for Wellies and Waterproofs

We are looking for wellies and waterproofs for the recently formed Beaver Colony and Cub Pack which meet at Oughton School so that we can take them on outdoor adventures. If you can donate any old wellies or waterproofs that your children have outgrown, please bring them to church. If you have any questions, please contact me at dcs.hitchincoats@gmail.com or on 433575. *Pippa Lally*

Sainsbury's Active Kids Vouchers

St Mark's Scout Group is once again collecting these vouchers in order to acquire some new equipment. If you have any vouchers spare, please add them to the basket at the back of church. d also to help on some of the stalls so please look out for more details in the notice sheet at the beginning of June.