

Churches Together in Hitchin Council on Mon 9th Feb, 8pm

The next meeting will take place at the Society of Friends Meeting House on the corner of Bedford Road and Brand Street from 7.30pm. We will begin with a celebration of the fact that the organisation had its first meeting in February 1965 and is, therefore, 50 years old. We will recall what happened at that time and we hope that some who were involved then will be present to share their experiences. There will be some items of business then the last part will be led by the Rev John Hardaker, the new Chair of CTH, on the theme 'Whole-life discipleship'. All are welcome at the meeting. For more info contact **John Richardson 01462 435595**.

Please send notices for inclusion in this weekly sheet by 7pm Wed 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, do introduce yourself to Jane, our Vicar, or Jeni, our Curate, who will be at the back of the church at the end of the service.

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 on 01462 456184 or e-mail deirdre.parr@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk

St Mark's Church



A member of Churches Together in Hitchin

1 February 2015

Fourth Sunday of Epiphany

Services and events today

8.00am	Holy Communion (p29 in folder)
10.00am 12.00pm	Holy Communion (p15 in folder) Farewell 'bring and share' lunch for Laura, Simon and Mai Williams
8.00pm	Sunday Social at The Angels

For prayer: We remember the various ways in which the churches of our town meet need in practical ways - the Food Bank, Street Angels, the debt counselling service of Christians against Poverty and the Bancroft Project providing meals for the homeless.

PLEASE TAKE THESE NOTICES HOME WITH YOU

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

website: www.stmarks-hitchin.org.uk



Readings for today

Deuteronomy 18:15-20
Revelation 12:1-5a
Mark 1:21-28

Hymns for 10.00am

161 AMNS	Christ is our corner-stone
97 AMNS	Father of heaven, whose love profound
512 AMNS	The Kingdom is upon you
29 SF	There is a Redeemer
125 AMNS	O for a thousand tongues to sing (Kendrick)

Diary for the week beginning Monday 2 February

Tue 3	8.00pm 1.30pm	Fellowship Group at 19 Wilbury Way Oughton School visit to church
Wed 4	9.15am 7.00pm	Morning Prayer Choir Practice
Thur 5	10.00am 7.30pm 7.45pm	Holy Communion at Westmill Lawns Fellowship Group at 52 Bessemer Close Thursday Group meets in the hall
Fri 6	9.30am	Little Lions
Sat 7	9.45am	Exploring Christianity

Next Sunday, 8 February – Second Sunday before Lent

8.00am	Holy Communion
10.00am	Holy Communion

Churches Together in Hitchin Prayer Link

Please pray for: Christchurch after their recent day of prayer. We pray with them that guidance received will lead that congregation in its endeavours in furthering the Kingdom. On Friday PHASE will be talking to year 7 at the Priory School about how the Christian faith is alive in Hitchin. Our prayers of support go with them.

Wool and buttons needed

Do you have any odd balls of wool and buttons you no longer need? Please pass them on to Eileen to help raise money for the Sue Andrews trust and Emily's Star charity. ***Eileen Duckett***

Phoenix Cards

Phoenix Cards will be at Little Lions on Friday 6th Feb and the catalogues and samples will be in church for the following two Sundays. Orders to Jane or me (or directly to Jane Ingleby) by 20th Feb. 10% of total of sales is given back to the church. We raised £46 in September, so well done and happy browsing! ***Deena Jenkins***

Social Events at St Mark's

We would like to plan 2 or 3 social events for this current year and would like to hear from everyone as to what sort of event we should be planning. Over the next couple of weeks there will be a flip chart at the back of church with suggestions listed. Please tick any of the suggestions that you would come along to. There will also be space to add any other suggestions you might have. Please take a few moments to help us plan.

Fellowship Groups meeting this week

New people are always welcome. For times and venues see above. For further info call Spencer on 07852 264425 or Marie on 07815 520901 (**Tuesday group**) or Andrew on 456184 (**Thursday group**). The latter group is currently using the book 'Faith in Politics?' by Richard Harries, former Bishop of Oxford as the basis for discussion of the question 'Can the Christian faith shed any light on the way we decide to vote?'

Andy Gibbs, son of Margaret and Harry and manager of **The British School in Queen Street**, will give a talk on the school. All are welcome to come and hear about the history behind the building, the future plans to preserve it and expand the programmes of interest to the public. Visitors - £3 including refreshments. For further info please contact **Val Conetta**.

Annual General Meeting

Our AGM will take place on Sunday, 22nd March following the 10am service. We will be electing people to serve our church family in various capacities over the next year. We have vacancies for four people to serve a three year term on the District Church Council and also one vacancy for a Deanery Synod Rep for the next two years. Please think and pray about whether either of these roles would be a way for you to contribute to our church life. Feel free to talk to Jane about what either role entails.

Taxi

To enable less mobile members of our church family to attend services a 'taxi' rota of volunteers is in place. It works out at about once every five weeks per driver. Almost all those needing a lift are in streets not far from St Mark's and not everyone needs a lift every week. If a date is unsuitable for a volunteer then swapping dates with each other is the norm. If you could carry out this ministry, or

would like to know more, please contact Helen Richardson 435595; 07880 682681; helenwrich@btinternet.com

Many thanks to Roy Dixon who has been a taxi volunteer for many years, enabling numerous people to attend our services and is now handing in his car keys!

Which way now for St Mark's?

As a church family, we need to pray about and ponder the direction God wants St Mark's to take in the next few years. To help in this process, we shall be holding an 'Away-day' (or more accurately an away morning!) on **Saturday, 25 April from 9.30am to 1pm**. We would love as many members of our congregation as possible to come along and help to discern God's plan for us. Please put the date in your diary now and join in this exciting task.

Caring for God's Earth

The "Growing Sustainable Communities' Conference at St Albans Cathedral is on Sat 25th April. The North Herts Inter-Faith Forum is hoping to organise a local group to attend. A poster is available on - www.stalbans.anglican.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/Caring-Poster-web0714.pdf and the programme on <http://www.stalbans.anglican.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/Caring-Leaflet-FINAL-CB-HH-151014.pdf> Members of churches can book places independently, however it would be helpful if they could let Revd Austin Smith on 01462 437433 know that they hope to attend, if possible before 4th Feb.