

### Annual General Meeting: Sunday 22 March at 11.30am

Our AGM will be taking place in three weeks' time. At this meeting, the officers for the year are appointed as are representatives on various bodies, including the District Church Council. Each year we elect four new people to serve for a term of three years on our DCC. Please consider whether you would like to get involved in the life of our church in this way.

Paperwork for the AGM and nomination sheets for the various roles will be available very soon. Immediately following the AGM, there will be a soup and roll lunch in the hall in aid of our Lent appeal. Please do try and come along to the AGM, and if you are able to stay for lunch as well, please indicate this on the sheet on the welcome table.

### Electoral Roll

The Electoral Roll is our church membership list. We encourage everybody 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 up a form from the back of church or talk to Jane. **Please return your form by Easter Sunday, 5 April.**

**Please send notices for inclusion in this weekly sheet by 7pm Wed to [deirdre.parr@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk](mailto:deirdre.parr@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk) or ring Deirdre on 456184**

# St Mark's Church



**A member of Churches Together in Hitchin**

**1 March 2015**

**Second Sunday of Lent**

### Services and events today

8.00am	Holy Communion (p59 in folder)
10.00am	Holy Communion (p59 in folder)
8.00am	Sunday Social at The Angels

### Readings for today

Genesis 17:1-7,16-16
Romans 4: 13-25
Mark 8:31-38

### 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.

**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](mailto:deirdre.parr@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk)

**website: [www.stmarks-hitchin.org.uk](http://www.stmarks-hitchin.org.uk)**



### Suggestions for prayer

#### From our Cycle of Prayer:

The Diocese of St Albans and its bishops  
 Lister Hospital, its staff, patients, chaplains and Christian visitors  
 Westbury Close, Friday Furlong, Lower Innings

#### From Churches Together in Hitchin Prayer Link:

Wymondley Baptist Church as they seek to appoint more deacons at their Annual General Meeting early this month and over the coming months as they consider leadership options for the future.

Holy Saviour Church as they continue with their programme of building refurbishment.

The Women's World Day of Prayer service taking place this coming Friday at Hitchin Christian Centre.

### Hymns for 10.00am

166 JP	Morning has broken
2 AMNS	New every morning is the love
102 AMNS	My God, how wonderful thou art
13 SF	Beauty for brokenness
148 AMNS	At the name of Jesus

### Diary for the week beginning Monday 2 March

Mon 2	2.30pm	Prayer Group meets at 221 Bedford Road
Tue 3	1.30pm	Funeral Service
	8.00pm	Lent Group meets at 16 Wilbury Way
Wed 4	9.15am	Morning Prayer
	7.00pm	Choir Practice
Thur 5	10.00am	Communion at Westmill Lawns
	7.30pm	Lent Group meets at 172 Old Hale Way
	7.45pm	Thursday Group meets in the hall
	8.00pm	Deanery Synod meets at St George's, Norton
Fri 6	9.30am	Little Lions
Sat 7	9.45am	Exploring Christianity Group

### Next Sunday, 8 March – Third Sunday of Lent

8.00am	Holy Communion
10.00am	Holy Communion
1.30pm	Baptism Service
2.30pm	Baptism Service
7.30pm	Year 13 (sixth form) Consortium Concert in St Mark's

#### Fairtrade Stall today following the 10am service

Products from the Traidcraft company will be available to purchase. The sale of these goods ensures that their producers receive a wage which helps them live with dignity. It gives us an opportunity as Christians to purchase thoughtfully to lift people from poverty.

#### Thursday Group on 5 March, 7.45 for 8pm start in the hall

This month's meeting is a talk by Marion Maule entitled 'Granny's Kitchen'. Marion will be bringing her collection of kitchen objects from the past. Anyone who came to her evening on sewing boxes last year will know how fascinating her knowledge of historical artefacts and their use is; we should have a very entertaining evening. All are welcome. £3 entrance (includes refreshments). For further information please contact Val Conetta.

#### Women's World Day of Prayer Service on Friday 6 March

The service is being held this year in Hitchin Christian Centre at 1.30pm. The material for the day has been prepared by Christian women in the Bahamas. All (men and women!) are very welcome to join in this service of praise and prayer celebrated worldwide. Refreshments will be served afterwards.

#### Year 13 Concert at St Mark's, 7.30pm on 8 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 – includes interval drink.

### **St Mark's Lent Appeal 2015 - GADRA**

Our Lent Appeal this year will be for the Grahamstown Area Distress Relief Association - GADRA. Grahamstown is a city in the Eastern Cape Province of South Africa which knows extremes of wealth and poverty and in particular has a number of beggars and street children. GADRA started out as a soup kitchen but now provides wider support for those in need and has a programme of scholarships so that education can break the cycle of poverty. Finn McQuaid, who is now a member of the St Mark's congregation (thanks to Jeni, our curate!) comes from Grahamstown and his parents still live there. We can, therefore, know at first hand what is happening and what our contributions are achieving.

Information sheets and gift envelopes are being distributed today and you are invited to give to this Appeal during the Lent season. Cash and cheques (payable to St Mark's Parish Church) are welcome - just place them in an offertory bag one Sunday or give them to Jane, a church warden or Helen and John Richardson. If you are able to gift-aid your contribution, that would be excellent.

Finn will be interviewed in our morning service today and will give us more information about GADRA. You can also find out about it on its website <http://www.gadra.co.za/> and for specific information about the education side from <http://www.gadraeducation.co.za/> Many thanks for anything you feel able to give.

### **Bishops' Pastoral Letter on the 2015 General Election**

For the first time in the run up to a general election, the House of Bishops has written a letter to the people and parishes of the Church of England encouraging church members to engage in the political process ahead of the General Election and to put aside self-interest and vote for 'the common good'. If you would like to read the full letter you can find it at <https://churchofengland.org/media/2170230/whoismyneighbour-pages.pdf>

### **Good Friday Workshop: 3 April, 2.30-4.30pm**

We need to start planning this year's Good Friday Workshop. Any offers of help with the planning would be gratefully received by Jane (434686).

### **Easter Pilgrimage to St Albans Abbey**

There is a tradition of parishes walking from all over the diocese to St Albans Abbey on Easter Monday, culminating in a big service at the Abbey. From Hitchin this is about a 17 mile walk. In the past there have been organised groups from our parish who have walked together. The idea of getting a group together from the parish is being explored for this year. If you would be interested in joining in with this walk, please let Jane know (01462 434686 or [jane@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk](mailto:jane@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk))

### **St Mark's Away Morning: Saturday 25 April 9.30am-12noon**

We hope that you're able to join us on 25 April as we consider together where we feel God is leading St Mark's. The morning will take place at Walsworth Road Baptist church. We will aim to finish around noon and then you'd be very welcome to come back to The Angels to share lunch together. To enable as many people to join us as possible on this morning we are planning to provide crèche facilities and can also offer lifts. We're now at a point of needing to know who is coming so that we can plan in more detail. You will find a list at the back of church to sign, including columns to indicate whether you will need crèche facilities or a lift and whether you intend to join us for lunch at The Angels. Alternatively, you can email Jane at [jane@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk](mailto:jane@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk) with the information. Please let us know by Easter Sunday (5 April) if you intend to come, particularly if you intend to join us for lunch. Menu and prices for food at The Angels can be found on their website [www.mcmullens.co.uk/angels](http://www.mcmullens.co.uk/angels) We look forward to having your company on this important morning together and hope children and young people will also feel very welcome as we regard it as important to hear their voices alongside the adult ones.

### **Cake Stall in the Market Place: Saturday, 14 March**

If you are able to bake some cakes to sell (big cakes always go well) they can either be brought to the Market Place from 8.15am on 14th or can be delivered to the Vicarage up until 9pm on Friday 13th. If you need cakes to be collected, please call Jane on 434686. We need people to help set up the stall at 8.15am on the Saturday morning and to serve on the stall up to 12noon. If you are able to help at all on the day, please sign the list at the back of church, indicating the time slot when you would be available.

### **Two church cleaners still urgently needed!**

Our church and hall are kept clean by a team of volunteer cleaners who work in pairs on a rota basis. To bring the team up to full strength we urgently need 2 new volunteers. With a full team, the commitment is just 2 to 3 hours every 9 weeks. For further information or to offer your services, please contact Louise Wills.

### **Welcomers**

Welcoming people to our church on a Sunday morning is another very important task carried out by a team of volunteers working in pairs. Currently the commitment is 5 or 6 Sundays per year. The new rota will start on Easter Sunday. If you would like to join the team of welcomers for 2015-2016 or would like more information about what is involved, please contact Louise Wills.

### **Daily Bread**

Would you be willing to cook and deliver a meal for a family or individual on an occasional basis? When looking at how we could best support people in trying circumstances for a short period of time we thought that ensuring that their evening meals were taken care of for a week or two would be welcome. With enough people on a database this should be easily achieved. If this is something you think you would be able to help out with, please get in touch with Jeni on [jennifercmcquaid@gmail.com](mailto:jennifercmcquaid@gmail.com)

### **Confirmation**

Confirmation is an opportunity for adults and young people of secondary school age to make a public commitment to try to follow the Christian faith. A confirmation service will take place in Hitchin on Sunday 14 June at 6.30pm. This is when the Bishop comes and 'confirms' people and prays for them. If you have not been confirmed and would like to explore what this would involve, please talk to Jane (01462 434686 or [jane@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk](mailto:jane@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk))

### **Craft Workshop at St Mark's: Saturday, 28 March 2 to 4pm**

An afternoon of making Easter decorations and cards. £5 per person to cover materials. Please give names to Helen Richardson or Val Chamberlain.