

### **Ash Wednesday Lunch**

The annual Churches Together Ash Wednesday lunch to support Christian Aid will be this coming Wednesday, 1 March, 12.30pm at The New Testament Church of God on the corner of Hampden Road and Willian Road. Simple but nourishing fare and a Traidcraft stall. All are welcome. Further information from Helen Richardson on 07880 682681.

### **Thursday Group: 2 March, 7.45 for 8pm in the church hall**

All are welcome at a movement workshop led by Lois Palmer from Medau Movement - a gentle variety of exercise using scarves and music to encourage strength, stamina and well-being. If you don't wish to participate, you can observe and benefit from the relaxed atmosphere. £3 entry for visitors (includes refreshments). For further information, contact Val Conetta.

### **Receiving the news sheet by email or submitting notices**

If you would like either to receive this news sheet via email in future or to have a notice included in the next news sheet, please email [notices@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk](mailto:notices@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk) or ring Deirdre Parr on 456184.

**Please send notices for inclusion in the news sheet by 7pm on Wednesday evening.**

### **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 or in the email version. If you have no access to these, please contact Deirdre Parr using the above email address or phone number.

# **St Mark's Church**



**A member of Churches Together in Hitchin**

**26 February 2017**

**Sunday next before Lent**

**Services today**

8.00am	Holy Communion (p29 in folder)
10.00am	Holy Communion (p15 in folder)

**Readings for today**

Exodus 24: 12-18
2 Peter 1: 16-21
Matthew 17: 1-9

**St Mark's extends a warm welcome to newcomers**

If you are new here, do introduce yourself to Jane, our Vicar, or to a Welcomer or Warden, and feel free to take and fill in one of the newcomers' cards which you'll find on the Welcomers' table near the entrance to the hall.

**PLEASE TAKE THESE NOTICES HOME WITH YOU**

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



**Follow us on Twitter: @stmarkshitchin**

### Hymns for 10.00am

AMNS 346	Christ is the world's true light
AMNS 318	'Tis good, Lord, to be here
AMNS 341	As the disciples, when thy Son had left them
SF 14	Teach me to dance
MP 549	Our eyes have seen the glory

### Diary for the week beginning Monday, 27 February

Mon 27	2.00pm	Prayer Group meets at 5 Westmill Lane
Wed 1 March	9.15am	Holy Communion for Ash Wednesday
	7.00pm	Choir Practice
	8.00pm	Holy Communion with hymns
Thur 2	10.00am	Communion at Westmill Lawns
	12-2pm	Hall cleaning
	7.45pm	Thursday Group
Fri 3	1.00pm	Women's World Day of Prayer Service in St Mark's
Sat 4	9.45am	Exploring Christianity Group meets

### Next Sunday, 5 March – First Sunday of Lent

8.00am	Holy Communion
10.00am	Holy Communion
1.00pm	Baptism of Rosie Standen
6.30pm	SIX:30 Service
8.00pm	Sunday Social at The Angels

### Prayer Ministry

If you wish to pray with someone or to be prayed for at the end of the 10am service, Jane will be near the side altar to listen, talk and pray with you.

### From the Churches Together in Hitchin Prayer Link, we pray for:

**Built on Faith Bibleway Church's** Bible Study nights taking place each Wednesday; this year's **Women's World Day of Prayer Service** taking place at St Mark's this coming Friday.

**CTH** remind us that today is **Church Action on Poverty Sunday** and all churches are invited to consider what more they can do for the poorest in our society.

### From the St Mark's Cycle of Prayer, we pray for:

Hitchin Christian Centre, The New Testament Church of God and The International First-born Church of the Living God; Nightingale Road Day Centre.

### Prayer Requests – Monthly prayer list

For the list of people in need of long-term prayer support see the Prayer Requests book in church or the paper or email versions of the news sheet. These people will be prayed for by name each month in church on the first, second or fourth Sunday of the month. They will also be prayed for each week by a group of people praying individually in their own homes. Please remember them in your prayers and also those listed on the church Prayer Tree.

### Notices

### Good Friday Workshop: 14 April, 2.30-4.30pm

The planning is now well underway for this year's workshop. If anyone has any jars (at least as big as a normal jam jar and without labels, please) we would love to have them. Please bring them to church to give to Jane. Also, we need a few extra pairs of hands on the day to help with craft activities and with the refreshments at the end. If you are able to help in either way, please let Jane know: [jane@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk](mailto:jane@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk) or 434686.

### **Traidcraft Stall after the 10am service on Sunday, 5 March**

The stall will be held at the back of the church next Sunday. Do support it if you can. The new Spring catalogues will be available to take away; orders can be made via Maggie Mellersh or the website.

### **Real Easter Eggs**

If you would like to order a Real Easter Egg, please sign up on the order sheet at the back of church by the end of March. These are the only Fairtrade Easter Eggs which tell the real story of Easter, using a 24 page story and activity book. Original: £3.99, Dark Chocolate: £5.50 and Special Edition: £8.50. Contact Maggie Mellersh for more details.

### **A different type of Lent!**

For March and April this year (in fact from 27 Feb) I will be spending the majority of each week away from Hitchin, focusing on family matters. I will be back in Hitchin for the weekends, and at certain points during the week. During this time, if you wish to contact me, the best way to do so will be via email, which I will be able to access easily ([jane@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk](mailto:jane@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk)). If you don't have email access, then do feel free to leave phone messages on the Vicarage answer phone and I will return calls as soon as I'm able. On weekdays, if urgent help is needed, please do contact either of our Readers, John Richardson (435595) or Andrew Parr (456184) or a member of our Pastoral Committee. This will be a very different experience of Lent for me and one in which, strangely, there will be a lot more time to pray! Therefore, if there are particular things you would like me to pray for during this Lent, then I'd love to hear from you and to be able to pray for you during my time away. Do let me know how best I can pray for you by dropping me an email or popping a note through the Vicarage letter box at any time during Lent. *Jane*

### **St Mark's Lent Appeal 2017 - *Healing Syria's wounds***

This year's Appeal is once again for Syrian refugees and this time we are supporting the work of Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) in the country itself and the surrounding countries of Turkey, Jordan, Lebanon and Iraq. Though there are some fragile signs of peace, the plight of those who have left their homes is as severe as ever and medical care is essential for those who are in camps and for those who are trying to return home. MSF is one of the most respected and effective medical organisations in the world and has a reputation for going into places when others hold back. It is already on the ground but it hopes to step up its work in the most needy areas and our contributions will help it to do so. More information and gift envelopes will be available next Sunday and during Lent.

### **Volunteers sought for church-only cleaning**

For some years, we have relied on volunteers to clean the church and hall but, in recent years, we struggled to get more volunteers to relieve those who have been doing it for a long time, and it became increasingly hard to juggle cleaning times with increased hall use. So, in December, with the agreement of the DCC, we engaged a commercial cleaning company to undertake the weekly cleaning of the kitchen, hall, foyer and toilet areas. They are now cleaning those areas every Thursday between 12 and 2. They are not cleaning the church itself, as it was felt that it is more appropriate that this continue to be cleaned by volunteers from the congregation. The Wardens propose to put together a rota of volunteers to come in weekly and do a basic tidy-up of the church, plus (if time and energy allow) undertake one or more tasks from a rolling list. If you are willing to be on this rota, please talk to Louise or Trish.

### **Annual General Meeting: 12 March, 11.30am**

Our AGM is fast approaching. Nomination forms for DCC members, Churchwardens, CTH reps etc can be found at the back of church today. Please consider whether you, or someone you know, could serve, particularly as a member of the District Church Council (a role for three years) or as one of our representatives on the Deanery Synod or the Churches Together in Hitchin council.

The **papers for the meeting**, including the financial papers and reports from the groups in the church, **will be available in church next Sunday, 5 March**. If you would like them sent to you electronically, please email Jane ([jane@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk](mailto:jane@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk)) after 5 March, and she will email the documents to you.

The AGM offers a chance to get a full picture of the life of our church and to hear about future plans. Please do try to come along.

### **Churchwardens**

At its last meeting, the District Church Council decided to expand the structure of our Churchwardens' team. From the AGM on 12 March, we will have two new Assistant Fabric Wardens whose role will be to look after the day-to-day maintenance of the church building and to oversee and work with outside contractors when necessary. The legal responsibility for the building remains with the Churchwardens, but is delegated to the Assistant Fabric Wardens. This, we hope, will make the role of Churchwarden much easier and less time-consuming. With these new roles, we will have a Wardens' team of 8: 2 Churchwardens, 4 Deputy Wardens (who help with the Sunday duties) and 2 Assistant Fabric Wardens. We are delighted to say that two members of the congregation have already indicated their willingness to take on the role of Assistant Fabric Warden. As we look to the AGM, we need to invite two more people to join this Wardens' team as one of our current Churchwardens and one Deputy Warden have indicated their desire to step down from these

particular roles. If you are interested in exploring the possibility of being Churchwarden or of helping as a Deputy Warden on a Sunday morning, please talk to Louise, Tricia or Jane.

### **Electoral Roll**

The Electoral Roll is the membership list of those who consider themselves part of our church family. If you are over 16 and are not on the roll, but would like to be, please see Jane or pick up a form at the back of church. The current Electoral Roll will be at the back of church in case you're not sure whether you've already been included.

### **Safeguarding Training: Tuesday 11 July, 7.00-10.00pm**

Booking is now open for this training session at Holy Saviour Church. To book onto the session you need to follow the link

<https://www.stalbans.anglican.org/diocese/deanerysafeguarding/>

If you have any problems booking or do not have internet access, please contact Pauline Banks, St Mark's Safeguarding Officer.

### **Year 13 Recitals at St Mark's, 7.00pm on 12 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 aged 19 and under – includes interval drink.

### **Mexican Pop-up Restaurant: Fri 10 March at Christchurch**

HICCA Rangers invite you to this event to raise funds for a Ranger's trip to Mexico which will include a community development programme with the local people. Food includes a choice of fillings for tacos and fajitas, nachos, a salad bar and puddings and there will be a Mexican-themed quiz. Tickets (£10 for adults and £5 for children under 12) from Clare Banham **by Fri 3 March**.