

⊕ St Mark's Church Hitchin ⊕

A member of Churches Together in Hitchin

18 March 2018
5th Sunday of Lent

Services and events for today

8am	Holy Communion (Said) pg 59 in folder
10am	Family and Parade Service with baptism of Jonty Pike
11.15am	Holy Communion (Said) pg 59 in folder
3pm	Baptism Celebration

Readings for today

Jeremiah 31. 31-34
Hebrews 5. 5-10
John 12. 20-33

St Mark's extends a warm welcome to newcomers

If you are new here, do introduce yourself to Jane our Vicar, Jeni our Curate, 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



@stmarkshitchin



Hymns for 10.00am

See Song Sheet	Give me joy in my heart
	If I were a butterfly
	I am a new creation
	Lord of the dance
	This little light

Diary for week beginning Monday 19 March

Wed 21	9.15am	Morning Prayer
	7pm	Choir Practice
Thur 22	3.15pm	Messy St Mark's at Oughton Primary School
	6.30pm	Group with no Name
Fri 23	12.30pm	Church Lunch
Sat 24	9.45am	Exploring Christianity Group meets

Services and events for Palm Sunday 25 March 2018

8am	Holy Communion
10am	Holy Communion

From the Churches Together in Hitchin prayer Link we pray for:

Tilehouse Street Baptist Church are holding another of their "Crack-an-Egg" Cracker events next Saturday, this time focused on the Easter story. We pray for enthusiastic helpers, that they might be able to convey the love of God to the children and the accompanying adults who come along. Also, we pray for Hitchin Christian Centre which is again running Alpha sessions at present. We pray that hearts are touched and lives changed.

From the St Mark's Cycle of Prayer, we pray for: The work of PHASE in Hitchin schools, for local schools and colleges, their students, and their teachers. We also pray for the residents of Mulberry Way and Beechwood Close.

Notices

St Mark's Lent Appeal 2018 - St George's Church and Clinic, Baghdad

A reminder that this year we are supporting St George's Church in Baghdad. This church, the only Anglican church in Iraq, has been through many ups and downs since it was founded in 1864, including being bombed in 2009, but at the moment, though it is heavily protected, it is relatively stable. It has its own Iraqi-born parish priest, a congregation of 200, a kindergarten, primary school, youth ministry, Mothers' Union and a weekly distribution of food baskets. It also has a Clinic, recognised as 'a centre of excellence' providing free medical services to people of all faiths in the city.

The Church and Clinic are supported by The Foundation for Relief and Reconciliation in the Middle East, a UK-based Christian charity with a range of work in Iraq and among Iraqi refugees in Jordan - full details on www.frrme.org - and our gifts will go to St George's via this organisation. Many thanks to all of you who have already contributed. Gift envelopes are available at the back of the church today with further information about St George's. Contributions by cash or cheque (gift-aided if possible) made out to St Marks Parish Church will be welcome between now and Easter. More information from John Richardson

Good Friday Walk of Witness and Service 30th March

The Churches Together in Hitchin Good Friday Walk of Witness and Service will take place on the 30th March. We will gather for prayer by the bandstand in Bancroft Gardens at 10.30 and then walk behind crosses along Bancroft and High Street for a united service in Market Place at 11.00. Members of all churches are invited to take part in this significant act of witness on one of the most sacred days in the Christian year. Further information from John Richardson - johnrichardson891@btinternet.com or 07505 426876.

Messy St Mark's

Our next Messy St Mark's at Oughton Primary school is on 22nd March and is on the theme of Easter. As we prepare we would be grateful for any of the following: clean junk (for junk modelling), sturdy cardboard tubes, plastic round yogurt pots e.g. Muller light pots or equivalent, coffee filter papers from filter machines which are no longer needed. Any items can be brought to church by 11th March please. If you'd like to help with Messy St Mark's, do let Jane know.

Confirmation 14th June

This year St Mark's will be hosting the Team Confirmation Service. Being confirmed is an opportunity to publicly declare that you wish to try and follow God, and to have the Bishop pray for you. If this is something you'd be interested in exploring, without any commitment at this stage, please talk to Jeni or Jane.

Social Events (*amended*)

We are going to start two new monthly social events aimed at our older members. On the **second Monday** of the month (starting 12 March) there will be tea and a DVD at Joy Hukin's home, and on the **third Tuesday** of the month (starting 20 March) there will be tea and games (whist, scrabble, RummiKub etc) at Margaret Hammond's home. Both will start at 2pm, and all are welcome. If you have any queries, speak to Joy Hukin or Margaret /Joy Bennett or just turn up on the day.

Easter Morning Alleluia Breakfast! 7.45am onward

Do join us for a cooked breakfast to begin our Christian celebration day. Stay after the 7 am service or come early for the 10 am service and enjoy together. Cost: donations. It would help if you sign the sheet on the welcome table for catering purposes, but happy to accommodate any extras on the day. Further information from Helen Richardson by email helenwrigh@btinternet.com or Joy Hukin

Easter Lilies

Over the next few weeks I will be collecting dedications for the Easter lilies. Please let me know the name of your loved one. Thank you in advance. *Ann*

Covent of Praise Church Farewell

Covent of Praise is holding a final Celebration Service in Strathmore School, Hitchin at 4.00 pm today, Sunday 18th March and they would be happy to welcome friends from other churches in Hitchin. Do feel free to join them on this occasion or, if you are not able to attend, to offer prayer for the service, the church's members and the Rev Janet Graham.

St Mary's Church is Recruiting!

We are looking for an enthusiastic Christian with an ability to facilitate worship to engage children and families in a twice-monthly sustainable fresh expression of church. This is to build on the work of our pilot, and empowering lay leaders. 10 hours a week £5,200 pa. For an informal conversation, contact Revd Daniel Drew on 07738 553264.

Closing Date: 26th March 2018.

Thursday Group

Thursday Group meeting on April 5th is entitled " English Customs"; A light-hearted evening of entertainment presented by Gill & Barry Goodman. We meet in the hall at 7.45pm for an 8pm start. All welcome, visitors £3 (includes refreshments).

For further information contact Val

Millers Cafe

Sadly, having reviewed the first couple of months of Millers Café this week, we have decided to discontinue the project. Thank you to everyone who has supported this project and to all who took posters to display. If you kindly took a poster to display somewhere, please could you make sure the poster is taken down. Many thanks. Jane

Alpha Course Help

I am looking to recruit a team of people who would be happy to be part of an 'Alpha Team'. The idea is if there are a few volunteers the work load will be spread and it won't become too burdensome for one person to manage. There are many jobs involved ranging from administrative to more practical and involved in supporting the guests. This does not mean committing to every term. If you are interested please let me know on 07773 784 736 of jennifercmcquaid@gmail.com .

Christian Aid Week 13-19 May 2018 Help Needed!

The house to house collection in Hitchin & Villages organised through CTH is in need of two people to count out and distribute envelopes and supporting materials for the collectors. If you like a bit of admin this could be you! One person needed to support 4 collectors in streets off the Stevenage road such as Grange Close, Oaks Close. One person needed for 4 collectors in the Old Hale Way, Bearton Green area. Further explanation from Helen Richardson, Organiser for Hitchin & Villages.

helenwrich@btinternet.com 07880 682681

Swimathon in memory of Phil Chamberlain

My son Stephen is doing the swimathon in memory of his dad. The money is going to Cancer Research and Marie Curie. If you would like to help him there is a Just Giving page for the Hitchin Swimathon Steve Chamberlain, or you can give donations to me. Thanks Val Chamberlain

Quiz Night for Christian Aid

Saturday 12 May 2018, 7.30pm at Christchurch, Bedford Rd, Hitchin. Fish/sausage and chip supper or vegetarian option.

Tickets £11, No food £5. Teams of 6-8.

For Tickets and more info contact: Sue Covington 01462 452985
suecov63@hotmail.co.uk or Pauline Edwards 01462 435438

Easter Monday Pilgrimage to St. Albans - Join other pilgrims from across St Albans Diocese to celebrate the risen Christ on Easter Monday at St Albans Cathedral.

Now in its eighth decade, the annual Pilgrimage and service have become a family event which now includes grandparents, parents, young children (some in buggies), the family dog (on a lead) ... and of course muddy boots! All are welcome.

A group of us from Hitchin will be walking to St.Albans, mainly on footpaths. We will meet at The Three Moorhens carpark at 7:15am, aiming to leave at 7:20am in order to arrive in time for the service which begins at 3.00pm. Bring a picnic lunch. Walkers will need to make their own arrangements for transport home. It will also be possible to join in at various points along the route. If you would like to join us along the route to provide hot cups of tea, we would also like to hear from you. For further details speak to Roger or Naomi Morris

Hitchin Rock Choir Concert Friday 23rd March

Hitchin Rock Choir will be performing some of their uplifting and feel good repertoire at The Priory School on Friday 23rd March at 8pm. All proceeds will go towards the wonderful charity Phase, which is a local charity working alongside young people at primary and secondary schools in Hitchin and beyond, to promote wellbeing and resilience. Phase started life with support from Churches Together in Hitchin back in 2002 (<http://phase-hitchin.org/>). Tickets are available for £10 from the Phase office (01462 422940 or office@phase-hitchin.org), or for more information via [hitchinrockchoir.eventbrite.co.uk/](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/) , or contact Belinda Brett.

Good Friday Messy Church

We will be holding our annual Good Friday Workshop, re-named 'Good Friday Messy Church', this year on 30th March between 2.30-4.30pm. If anyone is able to help with the craft activities or with the refreshments please let Jane know.

Holy Week Services

As we approach Holy Week and Easter this year there a number of ways to mark and remember this important part of Jesus' life and of our faith journey.

Sun 25 March 10.00am - Palm Sunday Holy Communion

Mon 26, Tues 27, and Wed 28 March - 8pm Compline with reflection

Maundy Thursday (29th) 8pm Iona Communion Service and Stripping of the Altar

Good Friday 30 March - 9.30am Service of Prayer and Reflection

10am - Leave from church to walk to Bancroft Gardens

10.30am **Walk of Witness**, with other churches, from Bancroft Gardens to the Market Place

11.00am - CTH Service in the Market Place

2.30pm - 4.30pm - **Good Friday Messy Church**

Easter Sunday (1st April) 7.00am Holy Communion followed by breakfast

10am - Family Easter Communion

To receive the news sheet by email or submit a notice

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 or ring Tricia Reed on 440278.

Please send notices for inclusion in the news sheet by 7pm on Wed.

EVENTS If you would like to promote an event at St Mark's on our Website, please send you poster/flier to events@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk