

⊕ St Mark's Church Hitchin ⊕

A member of Churches Together in Hitchin

25 March 2018 web



Services and events for today

8 am	Holy Communion
10am	Holy Communion

Readings for today

Isaiah 50: 4-9a
Philippians 2. 5-11
Mark Chapter 15

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

A&M 60	All glory, laud, and honour
A&M 141	The head that once was crowned with thorns
A&M 63	My song is love unknown
SF 13	Beauty for brokenness
JP 25	Christ triumphant, ever reigning

Diary for week beginning Monday 26 March

Mon 26	8pm	Compline with reflection
Tues 27	2pm	Easter Service at Nightingale House
	8pm	Compline with reflection
Wed 28	9.15am	Morning Prayer
	7pm	Choir practice
	8pm	Compline with reflection
Thur 29	2pm	Easter Service at Westbourne Nursing Home
	8pm	Iona style communion Service with stripping of the altar
Fri 30	9.30am	Service of Prayer and Reflection
	10am	Leave St Mark's to walk to Bancroft Gardens
	10.30am	Walk of Witness from Bancroft Gardens to the Market Place
	11am	CTH United Good Friday Service in the Market Place
	2.30pm	Good Friday Messy Church

Services and events for Easter Sunday 1 April 2018

7am	Holy Communion followed by Breakfast
10am	Family Communion
Monday 7.15am	Easter Monday Pilgrimage sets off from The Three Moorhens

From the Churches Together in Hitchin prayer Link we pray for: Churches Together in Hitchin Good Friday Walk of Witness and United Service, that both may be effective ways of proclaiming Christ in our town.

From the St Mark's Cycle of Prayer, we pray for: The Society of Friends and for prisoners and their families. We pray also for the residents of Firs Close, Maxwells Path, Bedford Rd from Fishponds Rd roundabout, and of Frank Young Court.

Prayer Ministry: If you wish to pray with someone or to be prayed for at the end of the 10am service, Gail will be near the pulpit in the side aisle to listen, talk and pray with you.

NOTICES

Services of Compline during Holy Week

The service of Compline is a very quiet and peaceful way to end each of the first three days of Holy Week. It lasts for about 30 minutes, with a combination of liturgy which we join in with, plus a reflection on part of the Holy Week story. It is one of those occasions when worship is filled with stillness and quietness, allowing it to wash over us as we contemplate what Jesus did for us as he prepared to face his death on the cross.

Iona Communion and Stripping of the Altar

We mark Maundy Thursday, when we remember the Last Supper, with a communion service, using words produced by the Iona Community. It has much of what we're used to, but also some gentle differences which make us think. At the end of the communion service we remember the events of the Thursday night of Holy Week as Jesus made his way to the Garden of Gethsemane, where he was arrested and taken for trial. We reflect the bleakness of this time by silently taking away everything from around the altar, leaving the table bare as we head into the starkness of Good Friday.

Good Friday Service of Prayer and Reflection

We enter the pain and suffering of Good Friday by beginning the day gathered in church for a quiet service of reflection and prayer before joining our friends from the other churches in Hitchin for the walk of witness in the Market Place.

Easter Sunday

Finally, after all the bleakness of Maundy Thursday and Good Friday we celebrate the news that Jesus' death wasn't the end, as we declare Jesus rising from the dead. Come along at 7am in the morning when we will proclaim the beginning of the day of resurrection by lighting the new Easter (Paschal) candle and sharing in communion together. Join us for our Alleluia breakfast from 7.45. Our final and biggest celebration will be our Family Communion which, of course, will include our customary Easter Egg hunt.

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.

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*

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 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.

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

The Passion of Jesus, Trafalgar Square, Good Friday.

Every year, the Wintershall Estate presents a dramatisation of The Passion of Jesus in Trafalgar Square, London. This year it is being streamed live to Our Lady's Church from 12.00 to 1.30 pm and all are invited to come after our own Market Place service. Further information from Trish Bonnett - trishbonnett@rcdow.org.uk - or via www.wintershall-estate.com/passion-jesus-London

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

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 .

Good Friday Messy Church

An urgent appeal please for 'Muller Light' style yogurt pots, clean egg shells, which just have their tops taken off (so that cotton wool and cress seeds can be put inside), coffee filter papers and clean boxes, tubes etc for junk modelling. Bring any you have to church this Sunday (25th) or to the Vicarage.

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 helenwrich@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*

Please take a bundle of Easter leaflets, and deliver them this week.

Churches Together in Hitchin wants every household to know about the services throughout the town, and St Mark's plays its part in this. It probably won't be your street, but take a bundle all the same! *Austin*

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