

Sunday 21st February 2021

1st Sunday of Lent



Readings for 21st February

Genesis chapter 9 verses 8-17

1 Peter chapter 3 verses 18 - 22

Mark chapter 1 verses 9 - 15

PRAYERS

From Churches Together in Hitchin:- The Hub Church ask for prayers for their 'Cross Team' (think of that as their church council). We pray that the team might have wisdom and discernment as they figure out their church's next steps, in lockdown or otherwise.



We join today with **PHASE** in praising God for His faithfulness towards Phase as they have been blessed with unexpected donations which have given them confidence in expanding virtual programmes to even more young people.

From St Mark's Prayer Cycle:- All Saints', St Paul's Walden, St Martin's, Preston and other village churches. We also pray for Relate, Cruse bereavement care and local undertakers.

This week please pray for the residents of Wellingham Avenue, Bowyers Close, Castle Court

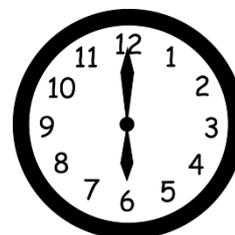
Prayer Requests – please send any prayer requests for the whole church to pray for to Andrew, who will then pass them on to the groups. Do contact your own group to ask for prayer too.

6pm Prayers – The Litterick family will be leading us every evening (except Wednesday – see below) in a short period of prayer on Zoom. Everyone is very welcome to join in for some or all of the sessions.

Churches Together in Hitchin Lent prayers - Wednesdays at 6pm

All are invited to join in Zoom Lent prayers for about 15 minutes at 6.00 pm each Wednesday from the 24th February to 31st March.

These will be led by members of different churches - St Mark's this coming Wednesday - and will be an opportunity to remember our community and nation at this challenging time. The link for both these will be sent out on Saturday morning with the other service links.



ONLINE CHURCH DIARY – links will be sent on Saturday morning.

Sunday 21st February – our **All-Age Service** will be on Zoom at 10am, and a **Service of the Word** will be on Youtube.

Monday 22nd February - **Morning Prayer Reading & reflection** with John on Youtube

Wednesday 24th February – **Online Morning Prayer** on Zoom at 9.15am.

Friday 26th February – **Morning Prayer Reading & reflection** with Andrew on Youtube.

Next Sunday 28th February will be a Holy Communion Service livestreamed on Zoom and uploaded to Youtube for watching later.

This week our friends without computers will receive a copy of the sermon which Tricia gave on Sunday 14th February.

CHURCH & COMMUNITY NEWS



St Mark's Talent Show on Friday 5th March at 6pm –

thank you to everyone who has volunteered to take part.

Please can you record your act using your phone,

landscape mode, and then send the file to Nick using

www.wetransfer.com (a free file transferring service).

They need to be with Nick by **Sunday 28th February** at the

latest - nick.smith@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk

Everyone is very welcome to join on Zoom, details for joining will be sent out next week.

Thank you - my sincere thanks to everyone for your prayers and loving support, as well as for the beautifully accepting way you allowed me to preach last Sunday. To be upheld in that way was humbling and uplifting. With love, Tricia.

St Mark's Lent Appeal 2021 - Jerusalem Princess Basma Centre

The Basma Centre was established on the Mount of Olives in 1965 as a home for Palestinian children with physical disabilities. Over the years, managed by the Anglican Episcopal Church in Jerusalem, it has developed its work to provide care for autistic children and their families. It has an inclusive school and a range of family support projects involving physiotherapy, help with speech and language, capacity building and job creation. In recent years, a lot of the work has been done through outreach centres in East Jerusalem, the West Bank and Gaza, and it has been an



internationally recognised beacon of hope for many. More about its great work can be found on [About Us | The Jerusalem Princess Basma Centre \(basma-centre.org\)](http://About Us | The Jerusalem Princess Basma Centre (basma-centre.org))



Inevitably, Covid-19 has had a major effect on how the Basma Centre operates. For a time, its projects had to close but now it is developing imaginative new ways of reaching families through virtual therapy packages and careful personal contacts. To help in this, it has launched an appeal for better IT systems and PPE for staff - and this is what St Mark's is being asked to support in our Lent Appeal.

Family support sessions pre-Covid.

As last year (the Olive Tree Project), we are doing so via the UK charity, Embrace the Middle East, which has prepared the following link to tell us more:

[Coping with Disability and Covid-19 in the West Bank — Embrace the Middle East \(embraceme.org\)](https://embraceme.org)

To donate, you can give by cash or cheque, payable to St Mark's Church (contact admin@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk and we will get an Appeal envelope to you).

Please return your envelopes to John and Helen or to Maggie.

To give online, go to St Mark's website, <http://www.stmarks-hitchin.org.uk>, click on the orange Donate button, and select "Lent 2021-Basma" from the fund drop-down menu. Please try to get your donations in by Easter. The online fund will close off on 6 April.

Many thanks in advance for your generous support.

John Richardson, on behalf of the St Mark's Mission Giving team



Sing-along leaders needed – The Howard Garden Day Centre in Letchworth is looking for someone to come in occasionally and lead a sing-along session, for about 20-25 minutes. The centre is for older and vulnerable adults from Letchworth and Hitchin, and they come in for a cooked lunch

and a bit of social contact. They sometimes have a quiz, or some gentle exercise, and also enjoy singing some of the old favourites. For more information contact Maggie (who works there as the cook!) on admin@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk

Printer cartridge – free to a good home! Deena has a Canon Pixma 510 Black & 511 Colour cartridge which is no longer needed. Please contact her if it will fit your printer via admin@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk

Real Easter Eggs from the Meaningful Chocolate Company. These are made from delicious Fairtrade chocolate, with a booklet containing the story of the first Easter. They are palm oil

and plastic free. Milk Chocolate Eggs cost £4.50. The Dark Chocolate Eggs are £5.50 and as well as the storybook also contain 3 x dark chocolate mini squares, and a luxury smooth dark chocolate egg (71% cocoa). Please order from Maggie by 1st March on admin@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk This year supermarkets have really cut down on their range of Easter eggs, having been hit hard last year by the first lockdown, so this is the first time for 10 years when the Real Easter Egg won't be available in supermarkets, only from stockists such as Traidcraft.

I didn't ask to be a Wood Pigeon!

Hi all, well the Great British Garden Bird Count has taken place the other weekend. The Husband and I sat dutifully at the window for the hour we had chosen, pens and jotting pad and binoculars at hand. Usually we have a huge array of assorted avian creatures Blue Tits, Great Tits, Robins, Wrens, Blackbirds him and her, Wagtails, Long tailed Tits and the odd Egret. So what appeared for our count? Only 2 Wood Pigeons!!! These two were obviously offline when the instruction, from whichever bird, was sent, saying "lay low all, they are counting us today!!!!". They did however take full advantage of the over stocked bird tables, dining on suet, seeds and meal worms designed to attract our usual flocks. Wood Pigeons don't get the best press but it's not their fault and they don't know they are Pigeons after all. In fact, looking closely at them their grey, white and pinkish plumage is quite beautiful. So, I proudly ticked the box indicating their visit then verbally reassured them that they are just as special as any other bird on the planet. They seemed pleased and just about managed to take off with very full tummies!!! Joy xxx

*If you would like to have a notice included please email
notices@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk
Please send notices by 7pm on the preceding Wednesday.*