



Sunday 20th March 2022

Third Sunday of Lent

1. Readings & prayers
2. Church diary
3. Thank you from Gill
4. Good Friday Messy St Mark's
5. Lent Appeal – Red Cross
6. Friday Friendship Group
7. St Mark's AGM – 3rd April
8. March Foodbank collection
9. Pirton Concert - thanks
10. Homes for Ukraine
11. Vicar's day off
12. Easter flowers & flower team rota
13. Request for wool
14. Weevils in the bird food - Joy



Readings for 20th March

Isaiah chapter 55 verses 1-9

Luke chapter 13 verses 1-9

PRAYERS:- From Churches Together in Hitchin - Tilehouse Street Baptist Church celebrates



its 353rd anniversary today. We give thanks to God for blessings received over the years and pray with them as they continue to seek God's guidance for the future. We lift for blessing the Easter workshops that **PHASE** will take into primary schools during the next couple of weeks. We ask, with PHASE, that the message of Easter resonates with the young people.

Prayer for Ukraine – Walsworth Road Baptist Church will be open every Thursday evening during March from 6.30-9pm for people to come and go as they will and pray for the ongoing situation in Ukraine.

From St Mark's Prayer Cycle:- We pray for the Church Mission Society (CMS), United Society Partners in the Gospel (USPG), Embrace the Middle East and Herts Welcomes Refugees. Please also pray for any children and vulnerable adults who suffer from abuse.

This week please pray for the residents of Lancaster Avenue & St Mark's Close.

CHURCH DIARY

Links for online services will be sent by email on Saturday morning.

Friday 18th March – 9.30am Little Lions baby & toddler group – *now cancelled!*

Sunday 20th March – 10am All Age Service. 11.15am Simple Communion service, livestreamed on Youtube.

Refreshments will be served between the services – please bring your own cups if possible.

4pm Youth Alpha

Monday 21st March – Reading & reflection with Andrew on Youtube. **Nick's day off.**
Wednesday 23rd March – 9.15am Morning Prayer service in church. 7.15pm Choir practice.
Thursday 24th March – 6.30pm GWNN
Friday 25th March – 12.30pm Church lunch – contact Joy Hukin on 455316
Sunday 27th March – 8am Simple Communion in church. 10am Communion in church and livestreamed on Youtube.

HALL DIARY – *these are the non-church groups hiring the hall this week.*

Saturday 19th Private booking 9am-2pm

Monday 21st Signing Group 8.30am-2pm

Tuesday 22nd Jo Jingles 9.30am-12.30pm; Rainbows 5-6pm; Antenatal Yoga 7-9pm

Wednesday 23rd Home Education Hub 11am-4.15pm; Yoga 5.15-7pm

Thursday 24th Childminders Support Group 9.30-11.30am. Dorothy Wells Violin Group 4-5.30pm

CHURCH & COMMUNITY NEWS

THANK YOU - for all the prayers, good wishes and cards we have received following my husband's recent operations. I am pleased to say he is now at home recovering. Gill

GOOD FRIDAY MESSY ST MARK'S It would be marvellous to reinstate after Covid absence an all age Easter themed craft afternoon from 2pm to 4.15 pm followed by a ten minute story and songs session ending with hot cross buns! A planning session in church on **Tuesday 29 March at 7.30pm** is being held to pool ideas. Volunteers needed please! You may like to staff an activity prepared by someone else, or prepare something yourself once ideas have been shared. Contact me, Helen Richardson if you can get to the meeting. If not but you can help on the day please let me know. Helen Richardson helenwrich@btinternet.com

ST MARK'S LENT APPEAL 2022 – RED CROSS



This year for our Lent Appeal we are supporting the Red Cross, who are working in the awful situation in Ukraine, but also in Afghanistan where there is still great need. Donations can be made between now and Easter by cash or cheque (payable to 'St Mark's Parish Church'), using the envelopes and gift-aid forms available in church, or via the orange Donate button on the St Mark's website - stmarks-hitchin.org.uk Just click

on the drop down menu and select *Lent 2022 - Red Cross*

For more information see The British Red Cross | Worldwide Humanitarian Charity

Or contact John Richardson on 07505 426876 or johnrichardson891@btinternet.com

Many thanks for your generous response.

FRIDAY FRIENDSHIP GROUP – the next meeting is on April 1st and will be a talk by Lynda Simmons about the charity "**Friends of Lister Hospital**".

She will explain the work of this charity and how and where the funds raised are spent. We will meet in the church hall for a 2pm start.

Entrance £2 for members and £3 for visitors (inc .refreshments) All welcome.

For more information contact Val via admin@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk

ST MARK'S ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING ON SUNDAY 3 APRIL at 11.15am

Please do try to come along to our Annual General Meeting in 3 weeks' time when we shall elect the various church officers to serve for the coming year. Please consider whether you, or someone you know, could serve, particularly as a member of the DCC (a role for 3 years) or as one of our representatives on the Churches Together in Hitchin council. If you would like more information about either role, do contact me about the DCC and John Richardson about CTH.

The meeting offers a chance to get a full picture of the life of our church and usually lasts no longer than an hour. To speed up matters on the day, all the reports will be available for you to read in advance. These, along with the agenda and 2021 minutes, will be emailed to everyone who normally receives the weekly notices by email. We will be producing a small number of paper copies for our church members who don't have computers. If anyone else feels they need a paper copy, they should let me know by 20 March via admin@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk

I look forward to seeing you at the AGM!

Deirdre



MARCH FOODBANK COLLECTION

The collection box will be at the back of church both this Sunday (20th) and next (27th). The most urgently needed items are: longlife juice; sponge puddings; cereal bars (packs of 5); tinned meat (meatballs, hotdogs or similar).

Thank you for whatever you are able to donate.

PIRTON CONCERT FOR UKRAINE – the concert organised by Margaret Johnson last Sunday raised at least £2000 for Ukrainian refugees – thank you very much to everyone who supported this event.

HOMES FOR UKRAINE – Most of you will already know about this government initiative to offer rooms for Ukrainian refugees – you can register at <https://consult.communities.gov.uk/digital-delivery/register-to-support-homes-for-ukraine/> Trish from Churches Together in Hitchin advised that the website was very busy so to make sure that you save each page you complete when registering, so that it's not all lost if the website crashes!

VICAR'S DAY OFF – MONDAYS - I love it when people get in touch with me, whether that's about practical church stuff, or wanting to talk about God and faith, or because they are struggling with something and want to chat. But recently I've had quite a few people get in touch during my day off. I think that's mostly because it's changed a few times since I arrived, as I've gotten used to the pattern of this community. My day off is now **Mondays**. I'd really appreciate it if people only contact me on Mondays in an emergency, and leave

anything else for another day. I want to be a joyful and thoughtful vicar, rather than becoming a grumpy and jaded one, and a complete day off is really important for that! Thanks for your understanding and help with this. Yours in love, Rev Nick

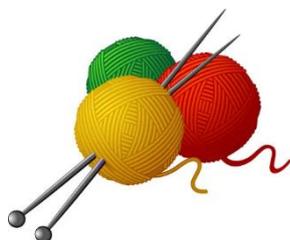


EASTER FLOWERS – If you would like to make a donation towards the flowers in church at Easter, in memory of a loved one or for a special occasion, please get in touch with Val or Joy via admin@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk

FLOWER TEAM – if anyone would like to join the flower team a new rota will be drawn up to commence 1st May. No previous experience needed, just a love of flowers and St Mark's. Please contact Val or Joy details as above.

ORPHEUS CONCERT AT OUR LADY'S

Our Lady's Church is delighted to welcome back the Orpheus Choir who will be singing a range of choral works on **Saturday 26th March 7.30pm** in the church. Tickets priced £5 are available from the parish office 01462 459126 - seating is on a first come basis on the night.



REQUEST FOR WOOL from Val – my Aunt belongs to a Knit & Natter group who would like some wool. They knit small hats for premature babies as well as items for other good causes. If you can help please leave the wool at the back of the church. Thank you.

WEEVILS IN THE BIRD FOOD!!! Well here by hangs a tale and a warning to other bird watchers / feeders. During a recent reorganisation of the home and outside storage areas we temporarily stored the “Celebrity Bird Seed Collection” that was in a giant size opened plastic sack in the spare room. About 2 weeks ago I noticed a small pile of tiny what I assumed to be bits of mud shaken off by the pup at the front door on returning from a walk. Hoovered it up no problem. Later that week several other small similar piles appeared in odd locations around the house. I became more concerned and actively investigated the deposits with a magnifying glass only, to my horror, to see movement agghhhh!!!! I isolated one of these tiny specks and took a photo on my phone. When I enlarged the picture, many fold, it revealed a prehistoric looking creature with horns and pincers and loads of legs. The Husband arrived home and then a full-scale operation bug hunt was launched!!! Well source of contamination was located in the spare room primarily at the base of the bird food sack. It was no mean feat to get rid of the little dears who had decided that all sorts of nooks and crannies, under skirting boards, under carpets, under the spare room bed were excellent hiding places. Sellotape, hoover, insect spray and then jettison of infected bird food bag down the stream for allcomers to make use of. The contents of said bag were visibly mobile. These little Weevils are not dangerous but not desirable co-habitants eh. Just so you know. Joy xx

*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.*