



Sunday 6th March 2022

First Sunday of Lent

1. Readings & prayers
2. Church diary
3. St Mark's Away (half) Day 12th March
4. World Day of Prayer – 4th March
5. Friday Friendship Group – 4th March
6. Lent Study Groups
7. Lent Appeal – Red Cross
8. Real Easter Eggs
9. Appeal
10. St Mary's survey
11. Brief Encounter – a lesson learned – Joy.



Readings for 6th March

Genesis chapter 2 verses 7-15

Luke chapter 12 verses 22-31



**CHURCHES
TOGETHER
in HITCHIN**

PRAYERS:- From Churches Together in Hitchin - We pray today for the **CTH Lent study groups** starting this week, that they may be a blessing to all who take part.

Please pray that the Holy Spirit would guide and lead **Walsworth Road Baptist Church** as they experiment with new pattern of Gathering for Learning at 10.00am followed by Gathering for Worship at 11.00 am each Sunday.

Christchurch ask that your prayers surround their congregational meeting next weekend. They will be considering whether Christchurch should be registered to conduct same sex marriages.

From St Mark's Prayer Cycle:- This week please pray for our Readers, Lay Leaders of Worship, members exploring vocations and our ordinands. We also pray for Age UK workers and those they support.

This week please pray for the residents of Ickleford Road, Dukes Lane & Bunyan Road

CHURCH DIARY

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

Friday 4th March – 9.30am Little Lions baby & toddler group.

2pm Friday Friendship Group – see details below.

1.30pm World Day of Prayer service – see details below.

Sunday 6th March – 8am Communion in church. 10am Communion in church and livestreamed to Youtube. *There will be activities for children and young people in the hall and refreshments after the service. Please bring your own cups.*

4pm Youth Alpha.

Monday 7th March – Reading & reflection with John on Youtube.

Wednesday 9th March – 9.15am Morning Prayer service in church. 7.15pm Choir practice.

Thursday 10th March – 6.30pm GWNN. 7.30pm DCC meeting.

Saturday 12th March – 10am – 2pm Church Away Day – see details below.

Sunday 13th March – 8am Communion in church. 10am Communion in church & livestreamed to Youtube. 4pm Youth Alpha.

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

Monday 7th Signing Group 8.30am-2pm

Tuesday 8th Jo Jingles 9.30am-12.30pm; Rainbows 5-6pm; Antenatal Yoga 7-9pm

Wednesday 9th Home Education Hub 11am-4.15pm; Yoga 5.15-7pm

Thursday 10th Childminders Support Group 9.30-11.30am.

This week our friends without computers will receive a copy of the talk given by Gail Adcock on 27th February.

CHURCH & COMMUNITY NEWS



MISSION ACTION PLANNING AWAY DAY - Saturday 12th March

from 10am to 2pm @ All Saints, St Paul's Walden As we emerge from the pandemic, we are beginning to think as a church about how we look *outwards* again. That's what our current sermon series on the Marks of Mission is all about: how we share and follow Jesus, how we care for those in need, how we fight injustice, and how we look after God's creation.

The DCC are going to spend a day (well, a half day really!)

thinking about and planning how St Mark's can be part of that Mission. Anyone who wants to join us is warmly invited! We'll gather at All Saints, St Paul's Walden at 10am to pray and chat about Mission, and hopefully see how God wants to use us!

We'll finish at 2pm, but if the weather is good Nick will be going for a short walk in the country afterwards if anyone wants to join him. Please let Nick know if you're coming along (he needs to make sure there are enough pastries!).

There's a sign-up sheet at the back of church, and a space to tick if you need or can offer a lift.

FRIDAY 4TH MARCH WORLD DAY OF PRAYER SERVICE, 1.30 pm at Christchurch. An international ecumenical service held on this day every year and prepared this year by women from our own country on the theme *I know the plans I have for you*. Prayers, reflections, music for all to share.

FRIDAY FRIENDSHIP MEETING will be on 4th March, 2pm and will be a Talk by Andy Gibbs on the Life and Legacy of Jill E. Grey. Her collection of education memorabilia is kept at the British Schools Museum in Queen Street.

Entrance £2 for members and £3 for visitors (refreshments inc.) For further information contact Val.

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN HITCHIN LENT STUDY GROUPS Eight groups are starting this week, using *The Prayers of Jesus* by Amy Boucher Pye as a guide. If you would like to join a group and didn't manage to sign up, or if you are simply interested in knowing more, contact Helen Richardson on 07880 682681 or helenwrich@btinternet.com

ST MARK'S LENT APPEAL 2022 – RED CROSS



Each year, as part of our Lent devotions, we have a financial appeal for an organisation that is meeting need in a particular part of the world. This year, mindful of the situation in **Ukraine** but also aware that there is a continuing tragedy in **Afghanistan** which can easily be forgotten, we are supporting the **Red Cross**, which is active in both areas. As always, it is showing 'kindness in action when crisis strikes', providing much-needed humanitarian need for victims of violence, hunger and

displacement. Further information on [The British Red Cross | Worldwide Humanitarian Charity](#)

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

Many thanks for your generous response.

REAL EASTER EGGS – the only Easter egg which has the Easter story as a new activity book



– not available in supermarkets. The eggs are made from Fairtrade chocolate and are plastic and palm oil free. Original eggs = £4.50. Dark = £5.50.

If you would like to order any please contact Maggie on maggie.mellersh@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk before 20th March.

TRAIDCRAFT ORDER – Maggie will be doing an order soon – if you would like to add anything (and save on delivery costs) please let her know by 8th March. See

www.traidcraftshop.co.uk or ask Maggie for a price list.

APPEAL Our "Asylum Couple" are still with us; their situation is unchanged and they are still financially dependent on us and on Walsworth Road Baptist Church. They are regular attenders at our Wednesday Morning Prayer and Sunday 8 a.m. services. Please do not forget them in your prayers or in your generosity. You can make donations via the DONATE button on our website, by cheque or by bank transfer, using the word 'Asylum' as all or part of the reference. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to get in touch with Andrew, or Nick.

ST MARY'S SURVEY – St Mary's DCC are developing a new vision for St Mary's, and would like input from as wide a group as possible. The link to the survey is here <https://forms.office.com/r/GqjBuK3BYg> if you would like to do it online, or you can find the pdf version here If you would like a hard copy please let Maggie know. They would like the responses before the end of March.

BRIEF ENCOUNTER – DON'T JUDGE ON FIRST APPEARANCES! Hi All a lesson learnt.



I hate to admit an initial shameful adverse stereotypical reaction to a situation. Last week in Letchworth I was walking back to my car having visited a friend, (Sam in the wheelchair for those of you who know him, and ps he can't wait to come back to us asap). A young man with a mass of extremely long yellow and green curly hair in combat gear came skateboarding at a rapid rate towards me on the pavement. Thankfully, he very skilfully manoeuvred himself then stopped, flipped his board up with his foot, caught it and went into the charity shop. I carried on walking and then on receiving and answering a mobile phone call sat down on a bench to answer it. I

was just signing off when the green and yellow haired person appeared walking passed me singing at the top of his voice in the most amazingly, angelic beautiful way he smiled at me and I had to say "wow what a beautiful voice you have and it's nice to see someone so happy." He promptly sat down beside me and we had a lovely conversation. His new book from the Charity shop was "Legends and Myths in England" which he said he was fascinated with. He also said he loved singing old songs, particularly old Gaelic songs with stories to tell of long ago. We sat and chatted for about an hour and I didn't care if I got a car parking fine because it was truly a most wonderful time. Sadly, I don't know his name and neither does he know mine. Not that this matters except he was such a magical person to find and these moments are very rare and so precious. So, thank you my mystical green and yellow haired beautiful person for a treasured memory for me and what a lesson learnt. Joy x

THE WINTER GAMES

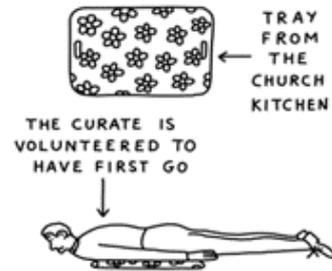
AT YOUR LOCAL CHURCH



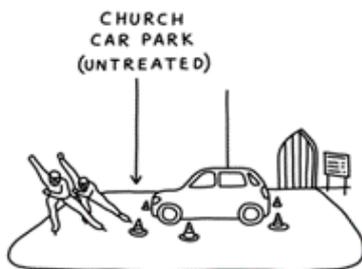
SNOWBOARDING



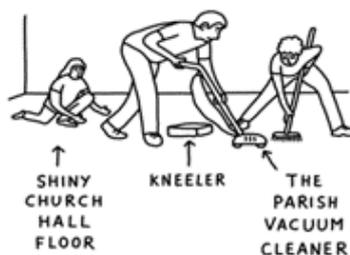
SKI JUMPING



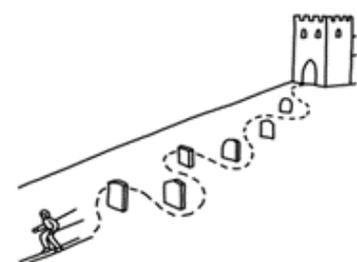
SKELETON



SPEED SKATING



CURLING



SLALOM

CartoonChurch.com

*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.*