



Sunday 25th February 2024

Second Sunday of Lent

1. Readings & prayers
2. Contact details for Maxine
3. Church & Hall Diary
4. News from Michael
5. Little Lions – help needed
6. Foodbank collection
7. St Mark's Prayer Group – 2nd March
8. St Mark's Lent Appeal
9. World Day of Prayer – 1st March
10. Friday Friendship Group – 1st March
11. Ash Wednesday lunch – thank you
12. Good Friday service – 29th March
13. Electoral Roll revision notice
14. Spring Cleaning - Joy



Readings for 25th February

Genesis chapter 17 verses 1 – 7, 15 - 16

Romans chapter 4 verses 13 - end

Mark chapter 8 verses 31 - end

PRAYERS – From Churches Together in Hitchin - Tilehouse Street Baptist Church asks that we pray



for its Safeguarding team meeting on Wednesday. We pray that they might continue to be rigorous in ensuring a safe environment for all who come onto their premises and participate in their activities. We remember in our prayers the **World Day of Prayer** this coming Friday, arranged and led by a group of women from our churches, using

material provided by Christians in Palestine. We also pray for all the young people who have enrolled on the Confirmation course at **Our Lady's Roman Catholic Church** that the Holy Spirit will guide them on their continuing faith journey.

From St Mark's Prayer Cycle – Please pray this week for the Hub Church. We also pray for our local doctors and nurses and all working with them in the community.

Please pray for the residents of Redhill Road & Oughtonhead Lane.

Contact details for Revd Maxine Howarth - Maxine's contact details are:-

priestmh71@gmail.com or 07930 522868. Maxine is on leave from Tuesday 20th – Sunday 25th and day off Monday 26th February.

CHURCH DIARY

Sunday 25th February – 8am Service of the Word 10am Holy Communion (Sung)

Tuesday 27th February – 5pm St Mark's Rainbows

Wednesday 28th February – 9.15am Morning Prayer

Friday 1st March – 9.30am Little Lions baby & toddler group

1.30pm World Day of Prayer service at Tilehouse Street Baptist Church – see details below.

2pm Friday Friendship Group – see details below.

Saturday 2nd March – 9.30am St Mark's Prayer Group – see details below.

Sunday 3rd March – 8am Holy Communion (Said). 10am Holy Communion (Sung).

HALL DIARY – *non-church groups using the hall*

Monday 26th – Signing Group 8.30am – 12.30pm

Tuesday 27th – Pilates 9.30-10.30am. State of Play Drama group – 8 – 10pm

Wednesday 28th – Yoga 5.15 – 7pm.

Sunday 3rd – Private booking 1 – 5pm

CHURCH & COMMUNITY NEWS

NEWS FROM MICHAEL - Kevin and Pauline recently received a post card from Michael.

He thanks St Mark's for his birthday card. Michael is settling into his new rural life in the village of Welton Le Marsh, Spilsby in Lincolnshire attending the local church St Martin's which is on the front of the postcard. The post card is on the notice board for everyone to see.



LITTLE LIONS – our church baby & toddler group meets twice a month on 1st and 3rd Fridays between 9.30 – 11am. We are regularly getting between 15 – 18 children and their parents/carers/grandparents, most of whom don't have any previous connection with the church. It's a lovely group, and a great opportunity to engage with families. Daphne, Beckie and Maggie run the group most weeks but it would be really helpful to have a pool of church

members who would be willing to help out occasionally with setting up, making refreshments and chatting to people, if one of us isn't able to be there. If you might be able to help please contact Beckie or Maggie on admin@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk . Thank you.

FOODBANK COLLECTION – the box will be out this Sunday for your donations. The items most needed at the moment are:- Biscuits 300g; Fruit Juice 1L; Milk Semi Skimmed 1L; Dried Potatoes 80g; Tinned Rice; Custard; Sponge Puddings; Squash 1L; Tinned Vegetables 300g; Deodorant; Toothpaste; Toilet Rolls; Washing Powder. Thank you for your support.

PRAYER GROUP – St Mark's prayer group will meet on **Saturday 2nd March** between 9.30 – 10am. Do come along to pray for any local, national and global issues that are on your mind.

If you can't manage this date, do email your prayer requests to Edward on admin@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk by 7pm on Friday 1st March.



ST MARK'S LENT APPEAL 2024 – The Jerusalem and the Middle East Church Association (JMECA)

Christians are a small minority in Gaza and the West Bank but over many years their churches and organisations have provided care for all in the region. These include work among disadvantaged children, in co-operative agricultural projects, and managing Al Ahli Hospital in northern Gaza. The war has brought great devastation and suffering and all this work has been deeply affected. JMECA, one of the main organisations providing support in the area, has appealed

for funds to continue the vital work in such appalling conditions and this year's Lent Appeal is a response to that urgent request. Further information can be found on www.jmecca.org.uk Donations can be made between now and Easter by cash or cheque (payable to 'St Mark's Parish Church'), using this envelope and, if you are a tax-payer, completing the enclosed gift-aid form. You can also give by using the orange button on the top right hand side of the [St Mark's website](#) click the arrow by 'fund' and 'Lent Appeal' will appear as an option.

If you would like to know more about the Appeal, have a chat with John in church. Many thanks as ever for your generous response.



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER - This annual act of worship will take place on **Friday 1st March, 1.30 pm** at **Tilehouse Street Baptist Church**. The service this year has been prepared by Christian women in Palestine so its theme of *I beg you, bear with one another in love* has a particular poignancy. Our Hitchin service will be led by women from different CTH churches - all are invited to share in this significant time of devotion.

FRIDAY FRIENDSHIP GROUP – our next meeting will be a fascinating talk on Anti Terrorism by Ann Lawrence. This talk has been highly recommended by members who have heard Ann speak before. All welcome and we meet in the church hall on **March 1st 1.45 for 2pm** start. Entrance is £3 for members and £4 for visitors (this includes refreshments). For more information contact Val on admin@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk

THANK YOU - ASH WEDNESDAY LUNCH - the Ash Wednesday Lunch at Walsworth Road Baptist church raised £417 for Christian Aid. Thanks to all who came and to the Walsworth Rd team, plus volunteers from Tilehouse Street Baptist Church, for organising. Food from the Hitchin Food Rescue Hub was used towards it too.

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE - This is on the **29th March** this year and we will have our usual united service in the **Market Place at 11.00 am**. It will be conducted by ministers of our local churches, with music led by the choir of St Mary's Church. As in the last couple of years, we encourage you to come in groups from your own churches, bearing a symbol of our faith as a witness to the town.

ST MARK'S ELECTORAL ROLL 2024 This is the formal notice that the revision of St Mark's Electoral Roll will start on Sunday 17th March and close on Saturday 30th March. The Roll is a kind of church membership list and has the names of everyone who can vote at St Mark's Annual Church Meeting which this year will be on Sunday 14th April.

If you're not on the Electoral Roll, or aren't sure, please ask Maggie on admin@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk . There will be application forms available in church between 17th – 30th March.



SPRING CLEANING... Well me and The Husband have started, rather early I feel , on Spring cleaning. This was sparked off by him finding an almost empty packet of Self Raising Flour at the back of the cupboard with a 2022 sell by date on. Well that went straight in whichever the appropriate bin is. Himself has now diarised 2 days a week to undertake a cupboard cleaning mission for February, yes he has just retired!!!!. Just a question, how far out of date do we think stuff is safe? if at all. I have pre-empted his

foray into the freezer by getting in first and removing the individual odd escapee prawn and whitebait who decided that being stuck to the bottom or side of the freezer, out of their packaging, was better than being in their designated plastic bag. I have also had a cursory glance at our supply of herbs and spices and intend to again be in the advance party to deal with this part of the cupboard cleansing. Sometimes, admittedly rarely, I get the urge to make an exotic recipe requiring very small quantities of strange herbs or spices, pinch of this, teaspoon of this, half a teaspoon this, that or the other. The recipe is then not repeated for a while, if ever, depending on the survival rate of the diners!!!!. These special meals often require the purchase of many and various ingredients that I have neither heard of nor used before and then only used for the special occasion and then sit unused in the cupboard forever. IDEA!!!! how about organising a herb and spice rack bank at Church where we can all come and take out pinches, half tablespoons, teaspoons of whatever out of a central supply which we could all contribute to. Could be very cost effective I am sure many of you are far more adventurous than me in the cooking department and could benefit from not having to acquire a jar of something that you only need a small bit of now and then!!!! just a thought.

Anyway Happy Spring Cleaning whenever/if ever it comes upon you.

Joy x

*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.