



Sunday 10th March 2024

Fourth Sunday of Lent

MOTHERING SUNDAY



1. Readings & prayers
2. Contact details for Maxine
3. Church & Hall Diary
4. Easter Hallelujah Breakfast – 31st March
5. Dates for your Diary
6. Name Badge Sundays – 17th & 24th March
7. St Mark's Lent Appeal
8. Paper copies of APCM documents
9. Hitchin Theological Society – 10th March
10. CTH Council Meeting – 11th March
11. Electoral Roll Revision
12. Pond Issues - Joy

Readings for 10th March

1 Samuel chapter 1 verses 20 – end

Colossians chapter 3 verses 12 – 17

Luke chapter 2 verses 33 - 35

John chapter 19 verses 25b – 27

PRAYERS – From Churches Together in Hitchin - We pray for **Walsworth Road Baptist Church** as they hold a morning service to celebrate International Women's Day and Mothering Sunday. In similar vein we pray for **Wymondley Baptist Church** as they celebrate Mothering Sunday together today. We pray that the service will be enjoyed by all those that go. We pray for the **Churches Together in Hitchin** Council meeting tomorrow at Tilehouse Street Baptist Church. We pray that the meeting may be guided as it makes plans for the future and thinks about ways in which churches relate to the Hitchin community.



From St Mark's Prayer Cycle – We pray this week for St Mark's Parish Church Council and ministry teams. Please also pray for the work of Arthritis Care and the Royal Osteoporosis Society.
Please pray for the residents of Westmill Road & Westmill Court.

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

priestmh71@gmail.com or 07930 522868.

CHURCH DIARY

Sunday 10th March – 8am Holy Communion (Said). 10am Mothering Sunday Family Communion (Sung). 6.30pm – Hitchin Theological Society – see details below.

Monday 11th March – 7.30pm CTH Council Meeting – see details below.

Tuesday 12th March – 5pm St Mark's Rainbows

Wednesday 13th March – 9.15am Morning Prayer

Friday 15th March – 9.30am Little Lions baby & toddler group

Sunday 17th March – 10am All Age Service. 11.15am Holy Communion (Said)

HALL DIARY – non-church groups using the hall

Monday 11th – Signing Group 8.30am – 12.30pm.

Tuesday 12th – Pilates 9.30-10.30am. State of Play Drama group – 7.30 – 10pm

Wednesday 13th – Yoga 5.15 – 7pm.

Friday 15th – Buzzworks meeting 7 – 10pm

CHURCH & COMMUNITY NEWS

EASTER HALLELUJAH BREAKFAST! Sunday 31st March from 8.45am breakfast will be served in the hall. Egg, bacon, toast and warmed croissants will be available, plus juice, tea and coffee.

Please sign the sheet in church and let's celebrate together!

Enquiries to Helen on admin@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY – here are some social and fund-raising events planned for the rest of this year. Do book the dates now and look out for more information nearer the time.



Quiz night - 18 May - 7pm

Wine-tasting - 15 June - 7pm

Flower festival - 29 June 10:30am to 3pm

Afternoon tea - 8 September - 2pm

Harvest Supper - 5 October

Pantomime - 12-14 December

NAME BADGE SUNDAYS – 17th & 24th March. We thought it might be helpful for people to have (optional) name badges in church for the next 2 Sundays. If you have a St Mark's badge, please wear it, otherwise there will be peel off badges available for those who wish to use them.

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

We have all been watching with dismay and horror the events unfolding in Israel and Gaza, and the wider Middle East. The most important thing we can do is to continue to pray for peace. We can also support JMECA who are working in the region to provide medical and pastoral support to all parties, by donating to our 2024 Lent Appeal.

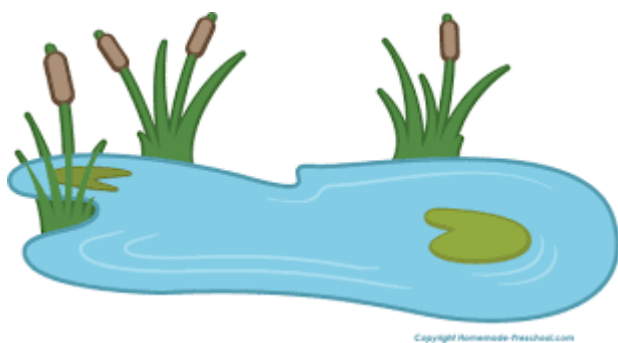
Donations can be made between now and Easter by cash or cheque (payable to 'St Mark's Parish Church'), using the envelopes at the back of church, and, if you are a tax-payer, completing the enclosed gift-aid form. You can also give by using the orange button on the top right hand side of the [St Mark's 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.

PAPER COPIES OF APCM DOCUMENTS - As we have done for the past few years, we shall be circulating all the documents (agenda, 2023 minutes, financial statements, reports) for our forthcoming APCM on 14 April via email, thus keeping the printing of paper copies to a minimum. If you are unable to access the documents electronically (they will be PDF attachments) and would like a set of printed papers please let me know by **20 March** at the latest. Email admin@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk

HITCHIN THEOLOGICAL SOCIETY The next meeting of the Society is on **Sunday 10th March, 6.30pm** in St Mary's Church. The theme is *The Quiet Women of Faith*. There will be presentations by the Rev Verity Harvey and Alice Little and the usual general conversation at the end. All welcome - further information from Charmaine Sabey-Corkindale on 01462 435497

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN HITCHIN COUNCIL MEETING - The next meeting of the CTH Council is on **Monday 11th March, 7.30 pm** at Tilehouse Street Baptist Church. There will be a few items for report and planning and then a session on links between the churches and our local community. This will include a conversation with Aimee Flack, the recently appointed North Herts Council Community/Partnership Officer and an update on the work of the Black Squirrel Credit Union. Members of all churches are welcome - contact John on admin@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk for more information.

ST MARK'S ELECTORAL ROLL 2024 The revision of St Mark's Electoral Roll will start next 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, or if any of your details have changed, please contact Maggie on admin@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk or pick up an application form from the back of church.



POND ISSUES - We have 3 ponds in our garden. Small one by the patio, fed by what looks like a stream coming from under the house, very clever design by Son Max. The middle pond is the biggest with a little wooden bridge over it leading into the Beach Hut and the third is smaller at the very bottom with a monolith water fall. Yes we like ponds and fish. Well, this afternoon I was out under the

veranda having a chat with the Guinea Pigs when I heard a strange noise. At first I ignored it thinking it was something mechanical happening in the field beyond the bottom of our garden.

Then on further investigation I discovered the middle, biggest pond water nearly empty and it was the pond pumps moaning as they were out of the water. Huge fish thrashing around in about 2 inches of water agggghh!!!!!! Panic mode set in!!!! I solved the reason why very quickly. A feeder fountain had tipped over and instead returning to the water to the pond to recirculate it was emptying all over the flower bed. Endless buckets of water from the various water butts we have around the place plus the hose pipe on full blast were in operation to refill the pond. An upset frog was spotted sitting on one of the ponds shelves wondering where all his watery home had gone. Then Georgie pup thought it would be great fun to jump into the huge dark void of the nearly empty pond largely with only black smelly, muddy sludge remaining - perfect!!!! Difficult to get her out. Well the Husband then arrived home and having eventually retrieved the mud covered pup from the bottom of the pond all 3 of us were in the shower, me, him and the dog smelling like” perfume de peat bog” for a considerable amount of time in an effort to get clean. Not quite the restful Sunday afternoon I had planned ho hum.

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.*