



Sunday 5th May 2024
Sixth Sunday after Easter



1. Readings & prayers
2. Contact details for Maxine
3. Church & Hall Diary
4. St Mark's Quiz Evening – 18th May
5. Thursday Evening Prayer Service
6. Friday Friendship Group – 3rd May
7. St Mark's Prayer Group – 4th May
8. Rotas
9. Puzzles
10. Church Spring Cleaning day – 8th June
11. Lent Appeal Update
12. Hitchin Eco Day – 11th May
13. Christian Aid week 12th – 18th May
14. The Husband's New Shed - Joy

Readings for 5th May

Isaiah chapter 55 verses 1 - 11

Matthew chapter 18 verses 23 - 35

PRAYERS: From Churches Together in Hitchin:- PHASE ask that we pray for the sessions



continuing at Hitchin Girls' School for the whole of Year 9 during May. These sessions focus around relationships, self-esteem, emotions and wellbeing and we pray for Molly as she delivers these sessions, praying

that the sessions make a great positive impact on the young people's lives. We join with **Christchurch** in giving thanks for

three new members affirmed at their church meeting on Tuesday 16th April, and through a baptism on Sunday 21st April. Please pray for Cathy, Graham, Steve and Noah in their pilgrimage of faith.

From St Mark's Prayer Cycle – Please pray this week for our Messy St Mark's, Little Lions, the Youth Hangout at Christchurch, Alban Way at Oughton School and uniformed groups. We also pray for those living with HIV, AIDS, hepatitis and long covid.

Please pray for the residents of Mulberry Way, Beechwood Close & Bedford Road.

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

priestmh71@gmail.com or 07930 522868. Maxine's days off will be Friday 10th May and Monday 13th May.

CHURCH DIARY

Friday 3rd May – 9.30am Little Lions baby & toddler group. 2pm Friday Friendship group – see details below.

Saturday 4th May – 9.30-10.30am St Mark's Prayer Group – see details below.

Sunday 5th May – 8.30am Service of the Word. 10.00am Holy Communion Sung. Our 11+ Young People's group will meet during the 10am service.

Tuesday 7th May – 5pm St Mark's Rainbows.

Wednesday 8th May – 9.15am Morning Prayer in church.

Thursday 9th May – 4.30pm Evening Prayer

Sunday 12th May – 8.30am Holy Communion (Said). 10.00am Holy Communion (Sung).
1pm Baptism.

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

Tuesday 7th – Pilates 9.30-10.30am; State of Play Drama class 7.30 – 10pm

Wednesday 8th May – Diocesan booking 10am – 1pm; Yoga 5.15 – 7pm

CHURCH & COMMUNITY NEWS



ST MARK'S QUIZ EVENING - We are delighted to be running our Quiz Evening on **Saturday 18 May at 7pm** in aid of St Mark's church funds.

The cost will be £15 per person (£7.50 for under 11 years).

There will be teams of six (we will fit you into a team on the day if necessary).

There will be a fish or sausage or spring roll and chips supper. Bring your own drinks with glasses if possible (to save on washing up).

There is a sign-up sheet at the back of the church. Otherwise email Joy on admin@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk Don't delay - places fill up fast!

NEW EVENING PRAYER SERVICE Starting on Thursday 2nd we will be having Evening Prayer in church on a Thursday at 4.30pm. This usually lasts for about 20-25 mins and will usually be led by Maxine. and will be followed by a cup of tea or coffee. Maxine will hang around afterwards if people need to chat to her about anything - please do come along and pray for the life and work of our church.

The next meeting of **THE FRIDAY FRIENDSHIP GROUP** is TOMORROW in the church hall 1.45pm for 2pm start. Dave King will be demonstrating the art of "Balloon Modelling" and we may get a few tips on shapes to make ourselves!!! All welcome Visitors £4 (inc. refreshments)

Contact Val via admin@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk

PRAYER GROUP – St Mark's prayer group will meet on **Saturday 4th May** between 9.30 – 10.30am. 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 via admin@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk by 7pm on Friday 3rd May.



ROTAS – the church rotas for June – September will be prepared soon. If you're on a rota and you know you're on holiday or unavailable please could you let Maggie know asap. Thank you very much. If you're interested to go on a rota please talk to Maggie or one of the wardens. There's quite a variety – welcoming people into church; cleaning the church; serving and assisting with communion; and so on.

PUZZLES – there will be some jigsaw puzzles on the table at the back of church soon from Eileen Morden – please help yourselves, for a small donation to St Mark's.

CHURCH SPRING CLEANING – book this date now! Saturday 8th June 9.30am – 12pm.

UPDATE TO LENT APPEAL – more money has been added to the total raised, which now stands at £1,321.57.

HITCHIN ECO DAY - The third annual Eco Day, organised by Plastic Free Hitchin and supported by Churches Together in Hitchin, is taking place on Saturday 11th May, 10.00 am to 2.00 pm in Market Place. Over twenty local organisations promoting sustainable living will have stalls and a range of goods, ideas, activities etc. Just come along and encourage others to come with you! Further information from John via admin@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK - This year, the Week is from the 12th to 18th May. Once again, it is an opportunity to support the great work of Christian Aid in meeting the needs of the world's poorest; in its own words, it is a time to ensure that 'families pushed to the brink can secure a better future'. Gift envelopes are available in each church or you can give online via [Christian Aid Week 2023 - Donate](#)

If you would like more information, contact Helen via admin@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk



THE HUSBAND'S NEW SHED - Well last week saw the delivery of the Husbands new shed. To my immense annoyance he had taken over my little hexagonal green house as a storage area for, as I could see all his stuff. This was potentially going to prevent my cultivational activities this Spring with regard to Tomato plants and Melons. Anyway, now a new "Man Shed" has now been installed. I insisted that we got Neil, our favoured odd job man in to do it rather than go through the nightmare of the Husbands attempts to "Do It Himself", what with his previous record of ignoring the instruction sheet and

disregarding left over bits and pieces as superfluous to requirements. Neil and mate arrived at 8.30am on the designated morning. The Husband made the essential starter cup of tea while I had a shower. I emerged at 9.15 expecting them to still be reading the instructions but no the shed was completely finished!!!! Absolutely perfect. It is positioned next to the Beach Hut, mine, so we have his and hers shed/huts now.

The Grandchildren got him a “Granddads Shed” sign, knowing that this additional garden accessory construction was in the offing, which he has now screwed in over his sheds door. True to his usual DIY skills it is not level agghhh. Not my problem and I dare not point this out !!!!!

Joy xx

If you would like to have a notice included please email Maggie
notices@stmarks-hitchin.org.uk

Please send notices by 7pm on the preceding Wednesday.