

St Faith's Parish Church, Hitchin
Sunday 4th February 2018
Second Sunday before Lent



Welcome to St Faith's. If this is your first visit, please make yourself known to Melanie, the Vicar.

Today's worship

9.30 am Holy Communion with Sunday School groups
11.30 am Holy Communion

Today's hymns

Opening: 9 All creatures of our God and King
Gradual: 314 Lord of beauty, thine the splendour
Offertory: 46 At the name of Jesus
Anthem: And didst thou travel light - Richard Shephard
Communion: 108 Deck thyself
Concluding: 514 Thou whose almighty word

Today's Readings:

Proverbs 1, 22-31;
Colossians 1. 15-20;
John 1. 1-14;

For your prayers this week

The sick: Charlotte, Anna Coyle, Ivy Palmer, Theresa Ronewicz, Sylvia Rutt, Margaret White, Rachel Merrill, Nicholas Slack, Anne, Charlie Mayes, Joseph Stitt, Emma Lacy, Dennis Webb, Valerie Rounden, Helen, John Tyers, Matthew Rainbow, Nicola Eversley, Louise, Ann Griffin, Christa Howe, Stephanie Plum.

Those who have died: Rene Lloyd, Hazel Askam, Marjorie Ray, George Grinstead, Mary Bullard and Geoff Ingram

In loving memory for February: Christine Spencer, Lionel Tomlin, Arthur Wallis, Hollie-Anne Anderson, Edith Walton, Dick Eely, Robert Holland, John Turner, Sidney Smith, Alma Eversley, Margaret Watson, Annie Blackburn, Joan Bullard, Cyril Oliver.

St Faith's and the community: those living in Gainsford Crescent, Collison Close, Stotfold Road, Roundwood Close, Campbell Close. At St Faith's: sacristans, servers and chalice assistants.

Hitchin Prayer Link: We pray for the work of Churches Together in Hitchin, especially this week for Gregory Gould and those who contribute toward the CTH Prayer Link.

World Church Prayers: CMS (Church Mission Society) has a married couple working in Uganda and ministering to South Sudan's refugees living in a settlement there. The conditions in the settlements which 73,000 people call 'home' are without comfort - mud huts with grass or tarpaulin roofs and makeshift stalls for selling basic produce. Let us pray for peace and the return home to South Sudan of the thousands in Uganda when conditions allow.

Notices

Lent Study groups: St Faith's Lent Study group will meet, as last year, on Thursdays in Lent at the Vicarage, beginning on 22nd February, at 7.30 pm. The subject will be the Creeds - not as dry as it sounds! There is a sign-up sheet at the back of church. The study guide costs £6.

Also on Thursdays in Lent, beginning 22nd February: Quiet evening in church, 6.00 pm -7.00 pm,

Hitchin Chamber Orchestra's Spring concert is on 17th March, 7.30 pm at St Mary's. Details are on the noticeboard.

Old Peoples' Home and 4-year-olds! You may have seen this series on Channel 4, in which a group of (supervised) 4-year olds visit a residential care home with interesting results! One of our schools is interested in joining with St Faith's to set up an inter-generational group based on this programme. If you would like to be involved in this exciting venture, please have a word with Melanie.

Churches Together in Hitchin Lent Groups have been arranged.

Your church has a sheet for you to sign up. Joining a group for a weekly Lent group provides an ideal opportunity to meet people from other traditions in friendly informal groups to discuss a particular part of the Bible. The course is *Fleeting Shadows: How Christ Transforms the Darkness* by Malcolm Duncan. It connects the Shepherd's Psalm 23 and Jesus the Good Shepherd in John's Gospel. Those who have joined a group in previous years have found it very thought provoking and also made new friends!

"Pinocchio" - This year will be the 10th year of the St Faiths Church Pantomimes! This production, written by Dawn Cairns, is entitled "Pinocchio" and will be performed on Friday 16th and Saturday 17th February at the Church. It is a moralistic tale but we tell the story in typical Panto style - Oh, yes we do! - and we hope you will come along to see for yourselves the scrapes Pinocchio gets into! See Pinocchio's nose grow as his conscience - Jeremy Cricket - tries in vain to keep him on the straight and narrow and urges him to ignore such dastardly characters as the wily fox, the crafty cat and the Circus ringmaster! The performances, at St Faith's Church, start at 7.00 pm on both Friday and Saturday, with a matinee performance at 3.00 pm on Saturday. Entry is by ticket only - cost £7 for adults and £4 for the under 12's. Tickets and more details can be obtained by contacting the box office on 01462 451015 or by asking Brenda in Church.

Market Stall: Saturday 24th February, 8.30 am - 2.00 pm

Our first Market Stall of 2018 is less than 3 weeks away, so please put the date in your diaries. The four Market Stalls we held in 2017 raised over £2,000, so they are a very valuable way of fundraising. We will again be selling toys and games, books, bric-a-brac and cakes. Please help St Faith's start our 2018 fundraising by offering to help for an hour on the stall, transporting items in your car, or by baking a cake or something savoury. Cheese scones are particularly popular. Please sign the list at the back of church or contact Mary Goose (01462-435605). The Market Stalls are always busy - you're bound to see someone you know - and they are a fantastic outreach opportunity.

Pointless Quiz Evening: Tuesday 6th February, 7.45 pm

Mothers' Union are holding a repeat Pointless Quiz Evening. All are welcome - it's just for fun! Hopefully Mary will have remembered how it worked last time by then, but nobody will be eliminated, unlike in the television show. The quiz will be preceded by a Communion Service at 7.00 pm.

We would welcome new names on the various rotas which contribute to our worship every Sunday, particularly Readers, and Intercessors. If you would like to join one (or both!) of these, please speak to Melanie or one of the Churchwardens.

Electoral Roll 2018 - St. Faith's Electoral Roll is being updated again in advance of the Church Annual Meeting on Sunday 4th March. If you would like to be added to the Electoral Roll please see Mary Goose for a form. Please also inform Mary of any changes of address or deletions you may know of. The closing date for the return of forms is Sunday 11th February. The updated Electoral Roll will be displayed in the porch on Sunday 18th February.

Monday 5th February - 2.00 pm - 4.00 pm

Millers Café now open for business is for those who have been 'through the mill'. Held at Walsworth Road Baptist church, it is an opportunity to drop in, to share a coffee and to be offered a listening ear for those who've experienced life changing conditions either themselves or through a loved one.

Churches Together in Hitchin Council

The next CTH Council is this Monday 5th February. 8.00 pm at The New Testament Church of God on the corner of Willian Road and Hampden Road - tea/coffee from 7.30 pm. There will be a few items of business and report, then a session led by John Maguire, the new CTH Chair, on 'Bridging the age gaps', including the results of a questionnaire sent round to a number of people old and young and in-between!

Fellowship Dates for 2018.

A list of events and fundraising stalls in 2018 is now on display in the porch and on the website. Mary Goose has copies if you would like one.

Ash Wednesday lunch for Christian Aid

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent and is traditionally a day when Christians begin to deny themselves as a way of preparing to appreciate all the more the death and resurrection of Jesus. Over the past few years, Churches Together in Hitchin has marked this beginning by arranging a lunch for Christian Aid. It is a simple meal - soup, bread, cheese, fruit - at a cost of £4 and the proceeds will support the poorest of the poor around the world. There will be a Traidcraft stall selling fairly traded goods. This year, Ash Wednesday is on the 14th February and the meal will be held that day in Our Lady's Church Hall from 12.30 pm. Everyone is invited to begin Lent together by sharing this meal.

Mission Direct

Mission Direct is an international Christian organisation, based in Bury Mead Road, Hitchin, that sends teams of volunteers to support projects in some of the poorest parts of the world. It wants to recruit a Volunteer Engagement Officer and will be interested to hear from members of churches in Hitchin who might be interested. It is also keen to hear from anyone who would be interested in administration support for about 16 hours a week on a temporary basis initially. Go to www.missiondirect.org or contact Jackie Johnston on 01582 720056 if you would like to know more about these two posts.

Wanted - Goods to sell - We need to restock the bric-a-brac stall following large sales at Market Stalls and the Christmas Fayre, plus a clear out of old stock. If you have any unwanted gifts, good as new items, especially boxed, kitchen items, anything we can put a good price on, please give to or contact Mary Goose (01462-435605).

Thursday Fellowship 8th February - Games Afternoon
All are welcome - we will be playing dominoes, ludo etc

This week:

Today: 2.00 pm-5.00 pm Pantomime rehearsal
Monday: 7.15 pm-8.30 pm Choir practice
8.00 pm CTH at New Testament Church, Hampden Road.
Tuesday: 7.00 pm Mothers' Union Corporate Communion followed by meeting
Wednesday: 9.30 am Holy Communion
Thursday: 9.30 am-11.00 am Small Talk Toddler group
Friday: 7.00 pm-10.00 pm Pantomime rehearsal
Saturday: 10.00 am - 12 noon Coffee Morning

Next Sunday: Sunday next before Lent

9.30 am All Age Holy Communion
11.30 am Morning Prayer

Contact details:

Team Vicar and Methodist Minister: Rev Melanie Crowley
01462 456842;
e-mail: melanie.crowley@btinternet.com

Please send notices for inclusion in the next bulletin (11th February) to **Dorothy Grieves** by 6.00 pm on Wednesday 7th February.

e-mail: dorothy.grieves@ntlworld.com