

150 years



866-2016

MARKtime

St. Mark's Church, Gillingham
with St. Mary's Island Church

Living for Jesus; Loving Gillingham;
Learning Together

Mission Focus December: **All
Mission Partners**

St. Mark's Group/events for
December: **All Christmas Services**

4th December 2016

Advent 2



10.30am: **All Age Service**

6.30pm-7.00pm: **Service of the Word**

Reading: Luke 1:46-55

Theme: The Original Playlist – Mary's Song

7.00pm-9.00pm Pub Carols @ the Canterbury Tales, Canterbury Street, ME7 5TS

Other Services: 11.00am **Morning Worship**, St. Mary's Island

Prayer Ministry: *If you would like someone to pray with you or to share concerns with, then members of the prayer team are available in the small chapel at the front of church.*

Monday-Friday during term time 9.15am-12.15pm, St. Mark's Pre-school, Vicarage Hall - Children need to be registered first.

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK?

Mon 5th Dec: 7.30pm-9.15pm **Landmark Fruitfulness** on the Frontlines 8, (POD) New Vicarage

Weds 7th Dec: 9.00am **Holy Communion**, Church

9.30am **Ladies Group**, Old Vicarage

1.15pm-2.45pm **Parents & Toddlers**, Vicarage Hall

6.30pm-8.30pm **Faith and Light**, Vicarage Hall

Thurs 8th Dec: 1.00pm-3.00pm **Foodbank**, Church

Fri 9th Dec: 10.00am **Lydia Prayers**, Old Vicarage

6.15pm **Kidz Klub**, ages 7-11, Old Vicarage

Sat 10th Dec:

10.00am-12.00noon **Foodbank**, Church

Small/Home Groups meet in various locations at different times throughout the week - please speak to Gary or Chris Atkins if you would like to be in a mid-week group.

NEXT SUNDAY 11th December

10.30am **Holy Communion - No SOS today, meeting up next week (18th December) for Christmas Party!**

3.00pm-4.30pm **Faith & Light** and **Faith & Light Juniors Christmas Party**, Vicarage Hall

6.30pm-7.00pm **Service of the Word**, followed by

7.00pm-9.00pm Pub Carols @ the Dog & Bone, 19 Jeffery Street, Gillingham ME7 1DE.

Other Services: 11.00am **Morning Worship** St. Mary's Island.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Christmas at St Mark's

Weds 14th Dec: 2.00pm-3.00pm **Carer's Christmas Carol Service** in church.



Sat 17th Dec: 4.00pm-5.30pm **SPLAT! Christingle** with Christingles, fun, games and refreshments - *Volunteers needed to help with prepared craft activities, serving refreshments, making cakes & biscuits, and clearing up afterwards.*

Please sign up at the back of church; speak to Jo Whittaker or Katy Muthalaly for more details.

Sun 18th Dec: 3.00pm "An Empty Chair for Christmas" - for anyone missing a loved one at Christmas in Church.

6.30pm **Christmas Carol Service** - with contemporary carols and candles in Church.

Mon 19th Dec: 10.30am **Coffee Shop Christmas Service** - an informal Christmas celebration with tea, coffee and cake, in Church.

Sat 24th Dec: 5.00pm **Christmas Eve Celebration** in Church

Sun 25th Dec: 10.30am **Celebrate Holy Communion with the church family - Please note that there will be No Evening Service.**

Mon 26th Dec: 12 noon **Boxing Day Festivities** with food, fun and good company for anyone who would otherwise be on their own. Speak to Karen or Trevor Dyer for more details.

Mon 9th Jan 2017: 8.00-9.00pm **India 2018 Meeting** in Church. This is an open meeting for anyone who wishes to explore further this opportunity to serve the Lord. More information to follow..., but speak to Saju if at all interested.

FAMILY NEWS

Please check the noticeboard and table at the back of church for the latest Nov/Dec Shopping Lists for Foodbank, as this is a difficult time of the year for many in Medway. Thank you.



We urgently need volunteers to help with the Charing House Carol Service at 3.00pm on Sunday 11th December, due to unexpected resourcing problems. This is a one-off request and will not commit you to anything in the future! Please see Graham Davis for details, thank you.

Volunteers needed to set-up/serve/clear away with tea/coffee/biscuits after the Carers' Christmas Carol Service on Weds 14th Dec and the Empty Chair Service on Sun 18th Dec. Please speak to Pauline for more details if you can help.

If anyone is ordering via Amazon or similar organization in the run up to Christmas – please could Lynne Martin have your packaging, thank you!

tearfund

Please remember our Christmas card tradition at St Mark's. You can write one card to all your friends at St.

Mark's and place it on the Tearfund noticeboard at the back of church. The money saved can then be donated to Tearfund. Thank you for supporting Tearfund. Monica and Mo.



POINTS FOR PRAISE AND PRAYER

"I will praise God's name in song and glorify Him with thanksgiving... The poor will see and be glad – you who seek God, may your hearts live!" Psalm

69:30 & 32 (NIV UK Bible)

LORD please help each one of us to glorify Your name in all we do, say and are before You and each other. Thank you LORD that the more that we reach out to You the more we grow in You. Amen.

Praise for the **Big Questions Panel Night** last Sunday in church... **Ask the LORD** to help us be honest with Him and with each other.

Pray for the Middle East and our brothers and Sisters in Christ who are suffering there... **Ask the LORD** to give you a person, situation or country to bring before Him this week... **Praise** that although we are all "poor and needy" our God is our "help" and our "deliverer" in times of need. (Psalm 70:5)

Pray for for the upcoming **Carols in the Pub** at the Canterbury Tales Pub today and the Dog and Bone Pub (11th Dec)... **Ask the LORD** to give you

a Christmas service or event to pray for this week. **Praise** for **David Wilkins'** adventure in the Tall Ships race on the ship *Lord Nelson* and for his safe return.

Praise that **Amanda Maskell and her family** will be joining our leadership team at St. Mark's in Autumn 2017 as a curate... **Pray** for them as Amanda finishes her training and the LORD prepares her heart ready to join us.

Pray for **Peter & Michele Guinness** and their ministry in France... for the English 'Filling Station' service and the possibility of beginning one in French... for their neighbours who have fallen out with one another, that they may seek the LORD and His saving grace and know His peace.

Praise for the 108 Christmas Parcels that have been made for **Mission to Seafarers!**

Pray for **Lisa Hambling** as she completes her studies and begins her new Job in January... for **Ruby Palfreyman** as she settles into life back home in Wakefield and starts a new job also in January.

Pray for the recent plane crash in Colombia which killed 77 people and included most of the Chapecoense Football Team who were travelling to the most important match in the club's history.

Pray for those undergoing surgery or other treatment: for **Michael Stacey** recovering from emergency surgery... for **Steve Burtrand** now home following major heart surgery... for **Chris Painter** following a collapse at work ... for **Keith Sheepwash**... for **Mo Chen**... for **Mike Young** ... for **David Howlett**... **Pray** for all those affected especially their family and friends.

Continue to pray ... for **Anne Fordham**... for **Nev Piper**... for **Don Miller**... for **Richard & Jane Tolhurst**, and others known to us who are in need of God's comfort and healing touch.

Pray for our Mission focus for December: **All Mission Partners**... **Please pray** for our St. Mark's Group/events for December: **All Christmas Services**

Bible readings for December 2016

Day	Psalm	1 st Reading	2 nd Reading
Mon 5 th	44	Isaiah 45.14-end	1 Thessalonians 1
Tues 6 th	56	Isaiah 46	1 Thessalonians 2.1-12
Weds 7 th	62	Isaiah 47	1 Thessalonians 2.13-end
Thurs 8 th	54	Isaiah 48.1-11	1 Thessalonians 3
Fri 9 th	86	Isaiah 48.12-end	1 Thessalonians 4.1-12
Sat 10 th	145	Isaiah 49.1-13	1 Thessalonians 4.13-end

Except for the first Sunday of the month **during term time**, groups for children and young teenagers meet at the Old Vicarage & the Carer's Centre respectively, each Sunday morning. All our youth & children's workers are DBS checked for your child's protection and safety. **If you have young children** please feel free to take your children to the Creche area at the back of church, near the sound desk (ask if you can't see it). Children are important to us at St. Mark's and we want them to be happy. Please feel free to let them play quietly in the Creche; **we just ask that you stay with them and leave the area tidy!**