

150 years



1866-2016

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 Event for December:
The Christmas Services

3rd December 2017

Advent 1



10.30am: **All Age Service** –
'Mary makes room for Jesus'
Luke 1:26-38

6.30pm: **Prayer Stream**

Other Services & Events:
11.00am **Holy Communion,**
St. Mary's Island

7.30pm-9.15pm: **Landmark**

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.*

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

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

Weds 6th Dec: 9.00am **Holy Communion,** Church
9.45am **Ladies Group,** Old Vicarage
1.15pm **Parent & Toddlers,** Vicarage Hall

Thurs 7th Dec: 1.00pm-3.00pm **Foodbank,** Church

Fri 8th Dec: 6.15pm **Kidz Klub** (for ages 7-11 years), Old Vicarage

Sat 9th Dec: 10.00am-12.00noon **Foodbank,** Church
10.30am-12.00noon **Faith & Light Juniors,** Vicarage Hall

NEXT SUNDAY 10th December

Advent 2



10.30am: **Holy Communion** –
'Joseph makes room for the outsider'
Matthew 1:18-25

6.30pm: **Bible Teaching Stream**

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

3.00pm Charing House

5.00pm St Mark's House

7.30pm-9.15pm: **Landmark**

8.00pm-10.00pm: **'The Gathering'** for young adults. *Speak to Saju or Amanda if you want to know more!*

Small Groups/Home Groups meet in various locations at different times throughout the week. Please contact Pauline in the Church Office if you would like to know more about being in a mid-week group.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Tues 12th Dec: 2.00pm-3.00pm **The Music Man Project Christmas Concert** presented by musicians with learning disabilities in Medway, at The Salvation Army, Green Street

Weds 13th Dec: **Faith & Light,** Vicarage Hall

Fri 15th Dec: 7.30pm **Carol Singing** outside the Ship and Trades Pub, St Mary's Island

Mon 18th Dec: 7.45pm **PCC Meeting,** Old Vicarage

Sun 24th Dec: 11.00pm **Holy Communion,** St. Mary's Island

CHRISTMAS AT ST MARK'S

Sat 16th Dec: 11.00am-1.00pm **Faith & Light Christmas Party,** Vicarage Hall - with puppet show, party games, singing, craft & food. Don't forget your silly hat!

Sun 17th Dec: 10.20am **SOS Christmas Party,** Vicarage Hall. *Please collect your child at 11.45am as they will not be walked down to church.*

3.00pm Empty Chair Service – for anyone missing a loved one at Christmas, in Church.

There is an urgent need for a keyboard player or pianist to accompany the hymns at this service. Please speak to Saju or Graham Davis

6.30pm Nine Lessons and Carols in Church

Weds 20th Dec: 2.00pm-3.00pm **Carer's Carol Service** in Church

Sat 23rd Dec: 4.00pm-5.30pm **'For one night only - SPLAT! Christmas'** with crafts, activities, songs and a Christingle, in church for all the family.



To make this happen, we need your help! Can you: make cakes; help with prepared craft activities; chat to families; or move chairs back afterwards? Also, donations needed of clean glass jars (without labels) and nerf guns to borrow!! Please speak to Shane, Jo, Martha or Nat.

Sun 24th Dec: 10.30am **All Age Christmas Eve Service** in Church

5.30pm Carols in the Pub at King George V, Brompton

Mon 25th Dec: 10.30am **Christmas Day Family Communion** in Church

Weds 27th Dec: **Annual Christmas Walk** - Save the date, more details to follow.

Sun 31st Dec: 10.30am **New Year's Eve All Age Friendly Service** in Church

11.00pm-12.15am Watch Night Service in Church

FAMILY NEWS

Congratulations to Megan and Helder on the safe delivery of their baby boy Leonardo Antonio, 9lbs, on 20th November.



Medway Winter Night Shelter will be open January – March 2018, please see notice board for more details.



POINTS FOR PRAISE AND PRAYER

"When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dreamed. Our mouths were filled with laughter, our tongues with songs of joy."

(Psalm 126:1-2 NIV)

LORD please help us to remember that You are constantly renewing and restoring us, so that we can move from pain and despair to laughter and joy. Thank you that only in You are we free to be our real selves and only in You can we be fully satisfied. Amen.

Praise that the people of **Zimbabwe** are filled with laughter and joy. **Ben Freeth writes**, "I was at the fuel station... on Thursday 21st November... when I got the message from a senator friend. It simply said: "He [Robert Mugabe] has resigned.... I ran to the nearby supermarket and bought a bottle of sparkling wine... In the check-out queue people were already beginning to dance. Horns were hooting. People were hugging me. News was spreading like an out of control fire before a great wind. As I walked out of the supermarket, I suddenly burst into tears. I broke down – laughing and crying at the same time. All the pent-up emotion of the moment, the years of trauma and fear, the sheer relief, released itself as I walked to my car."

Pray that the LORD will restore the fortunes of Zimbabwe and that **President Emmerson Mnangagwa** will keep the promises he made to the nation in his inauguration speech.

Pray for **Brexit** and for all the changes that this will bring to our country... **Ask the LORD** to transform and restore His holy values, so that we can all be a tolerant, united people irrespective of who we are and what we believe.

Pray for our Mission Partner, **Katy Barnwell** who is currently in Nigeria working with two Old

Testament projects, Mbembe-Okohm and Mbembe-Adun, checking the second half of Genesis and on into chapters of Exodus... **Ask the LORD** to protect her in her travels and bring songs of joy to her heart... **Praise** that **Katy writes**, "I have been continuing to work on the final editing and formatting of the Bible Translation Training Manual. There has been significant progress... please continue to pray that I will see anything that needs to be changed to make the manual as useful and effective as possible for training new translators preparing to translate into their own languages."

Praise that **Tina Piper** has improved and is now home from hospital. Tina and Nev send their thanks – please continue to pray for recovery and for a follow up appointment for heart tests.

Continue to pray for **Rob Byles** following further surgery on his leg... for physical healing and the mental ability to cope with this lengthy process and the uncertainty of a successful outcome... **Ask the LORD** to send encouragements and splashes of joy.

Praise that **Lynda Smith's** eye has shown improvement. She sends her thanks for your prayers... **Pray** for positive outcomes especially with the DVLA.

Give thanks that **Sarah** is no longer being sectioned, however, she has a severe urine infection which may be contributing to her deteriorating mental health and confusion. **Pray** for **Sarah, Lucy and the family** at this time and for the doctors as they reassess the situation when the infection clears.

Praise for the successful **Quiz Night** with so many people taking part.

Pray for the family, friends and neighbours of **Valerie Whitmore** (Bridge Baptist Church) who sadly died on the 20th November... for **Katy Muthalaly's mum, Linda... Keith Sheepwash...** for **Michael Stacey** for quicker post-operative healing... and many others known to us who need God's comfort and healing touch...

Pray for: **All Mission Partners** and **the St Mark's Christmas Services.**

Bible readings for December 2017

| Day | Psalm | 1st Reading | 2nd Reading |
|-----------------------|--------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Mon 4 th | 50 | Isaiah 25.1-9 | Matthew 12.1-21 |
| Tues 5 th | 80 | Isaiah 26.1-13 | Matthew 12.22-37 |
| Weds 6 th | 7 | Isaiah 28.1-13 | Matthew 12.38-end |
| Thurs 7 th | 42 | Isaiah 28.14-end | Matthew 13.1-23 |
| Fri 8 th | 25 | Isaiah 29.1-14 | Matthew 13.24-43 |
| Sat 9 th | 9 | Isaiah 29.15-end | Matthew 13.44-end |

Except for the first Sunday of the month **during term time**, groups for children and young teenagers meet at the Old Vicarage, 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!**