

150 years



0866-2016

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

10th December 2017

Advent 2



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

6.30pm: **Bible Teaching
Stream**

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

3.00pm: Charing House Christmas Service

5.00pm: St Mark's House Christmas Service

7.30pm-9.15pm: **Landmark**

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

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.*

NEXT SUNDAY 17th December

Advent 3

10.20am: **SOS Christmas Party**, Vicarage Hall.
**Please collect your child by 12noon as they
will not be walked down to church.**



10.30am: **Service of the
Word with Baptism** –
'Making room in
Bethlehem' Luke 2:1-7

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

6.30pm: **Nine Lessons and Carols** in Church

Other Services @ St. Mary's Island:

11.00am: **Morning Worship**

6.30pm: **Carols in the Community**

7.30pm-9.15pm: **Landmark**

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.

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: 9.00am **Holy Communion**,
Church

9.45am **Ladies Group**, Old Vicarage

1.15pm **Parent & Toddlers**, Vicarage Hall

6.30pm **Faith & Light**, Vicarage Hall

Thurs 14th Dec: 1.00pm-3.00pm **Foodbank**,
Church

Fri 15th Dec: 6.15pm **Kidz Klub** (for ages 7-11
years), Old Vicarage

7.30pm **Carol Singing** outside the Ship and
Trades Pub, St Mary's Island

Sat 16th Dec: 10.00am-12.00noon **Foodbank**,
Church

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

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

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

Sun 24th Dec: 11.00am **Family Service** at St.
Mary's Island

11.00pm: **Holy Communion** at St. Mary's Island

CHRISTMAS AT ST MARK'S

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

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. Monica and Lesley.

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



POINTS FOR PRAISE AND PRAYER

"But with You there is forgiveness, so that we can, with reverence, serve You. I wait for the LORD, my whole being waits, and in His word I put my hope."

(Psalm 130:4-5 NIV)

LORD thank you that when we turn to You and confess our sins You bring forgiveness into our hearts and break the chains that bind us into despair thus freeing us to be the people You created us to be. Please help us to make room for You and Your holy word in our everyday lives for Your glory's sake, Amen.

Pray for the Medway Night Shelter that will be opening from January... **Ask the LORD** to be with everyone involved especially those who are putting their hope in Him... for all people sleeping rough as it's now getting much colder, that they will be protected, given warmth and hope... **Praise** that, *"The LORD is gracious and righteous; our God is full of compassion."* (Psalm 116:5)

Pray for Northern Ireland and its people that they will be able to agree to a new Power Sharing Government that can represent all of them and avoid a hard border on the island of Ireland during Brexit talks.

Pray for all sides in the **Brexit** talks as they try to agree a deal that benefits everyone... **Pray for our government** as it tries to meet everyone's expectations on so many issues.

Pray for all those on Universal Benefit who are suffering great need, debt and despair that the government will not only listen, but act justly for the good of everyone involved... **pray** for those involved in local

Foodbank Centres as the demand increases.

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

Pray for Peter Marchand that the medical team will make wise decisions in treating Peter's cancer... that the LORD will heal and bring comfort to Peter, Gill and their family at this difficult time.

Praise for the work of **The Family Trust** as they take the message of Jesus into our schools... **Pray** for protection, finance and that the LORD will give them His words to say that touches the hearts of the pupils and staff as they listen.

Praise for the £311.60 given to the Royal British Legion from our Remembrance Day Service offering... **praise** for the £445.00 raised for India 2018 from the quiz night.

Ask the LORD to give you a Christmas service or event to cover in prayer this week.

Pray for the LORD'S healing in the Middle East and that peace will come.

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.

Pray for the family, friends and neighbours of **Valerie Whitmore** (Bridge Baptist Church) who sadly died on the 20th November... for **Rob Byles** following further surgery on his leg... for **Tina Piper**... for **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	1 st Reading	2 nd Reading
Mon 11 th	44	Isaiah 30.1-18	Matthew 14.1-12
Tues 12 th	56	Isaiah 30.19-end	Matthew 14.13-end
Weds 13 th	62	Isaiah 31	Matthew 15.1-20
Thurs 14 th	54	Isaiah 32	Matthew 15.21-28
Fri 15 th	86	Isaiah 33.1-22	Matthew 15.29-end
Sat 16 th	145	Isaiah 35	Matthew 16.1-12

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!**