

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: All Mission  
Partners

St. Mark's Event:  
Christmas Services

2<sup>nd</sup> December 2018

## Advent 1



10.30am: **All Age Service  
- Created Stars**

Bible Reading: Genesis 1:14-16

6.30pm: **No Service at  
St. Mark's Church -  
Confirmation evening at  
St. Matthews Church**

### Other Services:

11.00am: **Christingle & Baptism**, St Mary's  
Island

7.30pm-9.15pm: **Summit (was 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 DURING THIS WEEK:

Weds 5<sup>th</sup> Dec: 9.00am **Holy Communion**, in  
Church

9.45am: **Ladies Group**, Old Vicarage

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

Thurs 6<sup>th</sup> Dec: 1.00pm-3.00pm **Foodbank**,  
Church

7.00pm-9.15pm: **ALPHA**, Old Vicarage

Fri 7<sup>th</sup> Dec: 6.15pm: **Kidz Klub**, ages 7-11, Old  
Vicarage

Sat 8<sup>th</sup> Dec: 7.00am-8.00am: **Standing in the  
Gap**, Old carage, an early morning intercessory  
session seeking God's face in families, youth &  
children's ministry. Please contact Dammy or Tim  
for more info.

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

### NEXT SUNDAY 9<sup>th</sup> Dec:

#### Advent 2

10.30am: **Holy Communion:  
Promised Stars**

Genesis 15:1-6

6.30pm: **Bible Study Stream**  
**Other Services:**

11.00am: **Holy Communion**  
St Mary's Island

3.00pm: Charing House

5.00pm: St Mark's House

7.30pm-9.15pm: **Summit (was Landmark)**

### Office Closed



The office will be closed over the  
Christmas period from Friday 21<sup>st</sup> Dec -  
Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> Jan and Friday 4<sup>th</sup> Jan.

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



### Open Church Prayer Week

Mon 10<sup>th</sup> Dec-Fri 14<sup>th</sup> Dec: **9.00am-3.00pm**

We are opening the doors of our church to invite  
anyone in the community to come in to pray, sit  
in silence, reflect and be in the presence of God.  
If you are available to be with those who come in  
to church, please speak to Katie or Ellie. Thank  
you.

Weds 12<sup>th</sup> Dec: 7.00pm **Music Man Project**

**Christmas Concert**, St. George's Centre,  
Chtham Maritime. Admission FREE - first-come,  
first-served for seating!

Fri 14<sup>th</sup> Dec: 7.30pm **Carol Singing** outside the  
Ship and Trades Pub, St Mary's Island

Sat 15<sup>th</sup> Dec: 1pm **Differently Able**, (was Faith  
& Light) **Christmas Party**, Vicarage Hall

Sun 16<sup>th</sup> Dec: 6.30pm **Parish walk & leaflet  
distribution**, we will be meeting at church then  
heading out on a prayer walk and delivering our  
Follow the Star leaflets.

Thurs 20<sup>th</sup> Dec: 7.30pm **Men's Curry Night**,  
Old Vicarage. This is a bring and share event.  
Please speak to Dammy for more information.

Sun 23<sup>rd</sup> Dec: 10.30am **Traditional Carol  
Service**, St. Mark's Church

3.00pm **Empty Chair Service** - A  
reflective Service for anyone missing a  
loved one this Christmas, St. Mark's  
Church

5.30pm **Carols in the Pub**, King George  
V, 1 Prospect Row, Brompton ME7 5AL

Mon 24<sup>th</sup> Dec: 5.00pm **FOLLOW THE STAR** - A

Christmas Festival of carols,  
drama, community choir and  
refreshments, St. Mark's Church

11.00pm **Christmas Eve  
Midnight Service**, St Mary's  
Island

Tues 25<sup>th</sup> Dec: 10.30am  
**Christmas Day CELEBRATION** -  
All Age Service with Holy  
Communion, St. Mark's Church

Mon 31<sup>st</sup> Dec: 11.00pm **WATCH Night Service**  
- a service to look back with grateful hearts for all  
that God has done in 2018 and a hearty  
celebration in anticipation for all God is going to  
do in 2019



## **FAMILY NEWS**



### **Follow the Star needs you!**

We need volunteers for our Follow the Star festival on 24<sup>th</sup> December. Can you offer your help serving nibbles and mulled wine? If so please speak to Amanda or Lynda Smith.

Save money, help charity and send one card to all the church this year through Tearfund. See Monica Shergill, Lesley Boast or the welcome desk for more information.



### **POINTS FOR PRAISE AND PRAYER**

**"When I look at the night sky and see the work of Your fingers – the moon and the stars You set in place – what are mere mortals that You should think about them, human beings that You should care for them?" Psalm 8:3-4 (New Living Translation)**

**O LORD, thank you that when You see us You see Jesus paying the price for our sin and delight in us. Please help us to remember just how much You are willing to pay to redeem us, so that we see our honour and worth are truly with You and not in our arrogance, temporary human activity or wealth, for Your Glory's Sake, Amen.**

**Praise** for all that the LORD has done for each one of us this week... **Ask the LORD** to highlight a blessing to bring to Him in worship and awe to our Great God of the whole universe.

**Pray** for all our **Christmas Services**; for the final preparations, resources, worship, sermons, and enough volunteers to help with each event... **Ask the LORD** to give you a Christmas service or event to pray for this week... **Praise** for the privilege of sharing our faith at this time of year.

**Pray** for the **Medway Night Shelter** that will be opening its doors to help people who are living on the streets at this time of year... **Ask the LORD** to protect, encourage, strengthen and bring His joyful blessing on everyone involved.

**Pray** for **Foodbank**, its staff and volunteers over the Christmas season... **Ask the LORD** to bring hope to the hopeless, joy to the sad and miraculous answers to prayer for His glory's sake.

**Continue to pray** for our government especially our PM Mrs Theresa May as they continue this stage of **BREXIT** negotiations... **Ask the LORD** to give them wisdom in making the correct decision for the good of the country and not put politics or careers first.

**Pray** for the **Music Man Project Christmas Concert** happening on Weds 12<sup>th</sup> Dec at the St. George's Centre, Chatham Maritime... **Ask the LORD** to protect, encourage and bring the true joy of Christmas into this occasion.

**Pray** for protection, listening hearts and God's presence for everyone taking part in **Standing in the Gap** on Sat 8<sup>th</sup> Dec.

**Pray** for refugees and migrants in this country and around the world who are in need of whatever kind... **Ask the LORD** to remind the rich, the powerful and ourselves, "Do not ill-treat or oppress a foreigner, for you were foreigners in Egypt." (Exodus 22:21)... **Praise** that we were once all foreigners until the LORD rescued us!

**Bring to the LORD** any situation whether in our church family, locally, nationally or internationally that you care about... **Praise LORD because**, "The LORD is good to all; He has compassion on all He has made." (Psalm 145.9)

**Pray** for **Sheryl Gowan** recently diagnosed with lung cancer... for **Keith Sheepwash**... for **Derick Thom's sister-in-law Iris**.. for **Gill Marchand and family** ... for **Terence Herbert** ... for **June Bloor and family**...for **Michael Stacey** for continued healing to his wounds and that the doctors 'sort him out' so that he can come home soon...anyone you know who needs the LORD at this time for whatever reason.

**Please pray for: All Mission Partners & the Christmas Services**

### **Bible readings for December 2018**

<b>Day</b>	<b>Psalm</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Reading</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Reading</b>
Mon 3 <sup>d</sup>	50	Isaiah 42.18-end	Revelation 19
Tues 4 <sup>th</sup>	80	Isaiah 43.1-13	Revelation 20
Weds 5 <sup>th</sup>	7	Isaiah 43.14-end	Revelation 21.1-8
Thurs 6 <sup>th</sup>	42	Isaiah 44.1-8	Revelation 21.9-21
Fri 7 <sup>th</sup>	25	Isaiah 44.9-23	Revelation 21.22-22.5
Sat 8 <sup>th</sup>	9	Isaiah 44.24-45.13	Revelation 22.6-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!**

#### **New Church Office Hours are:**

**Mon & Thurs 10.00am-3.00pm, Tues & Weds 10.00am-2.00pm, Fri 10.00am-2.30pm (by appointment only)**