

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

16<sup>th</sup> December 2018

## Advent 3



**10.30am: Service of the Word: Sovereign Star**

Bible Reading: Isaiah 40:1-31  
**Parish walk and leaflet distribution**, for those who wish to: Groups will head out on a prayer walk & delivering our Follow the Star leaflets.

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**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.

### Other Services:



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

**6.30pm: Evening Community Carols with the St. Mary's School Choir**, 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.*

The **Church Office** will be closed over the Christmas period from Fri 21<sup>st</sup> Dec – Tues 1<sup>st</sup> Jan and Fri 4<sup>th</sup> Jan 2019.

## WHAT'S ON DURING THIS WEEK:

**Weds 19<sup>th</sup> Dec:** 9.00am **Holy Communion**, in Church

**Thurs 20<sup>th</sup> Dec:** 1.00pm-3.00pm **Foodbank**, Church

7.30pm: **Men's Curry Night**, Old Vicarage. This is a bring and share event. Please speak to Dammy for more information.

**Sat 21<sup>st</sup> Dec:** 7.00am-8.00am **Standing in the Gap** – *Praying for families, youth & children's ministries*, Old Vicarage. Please contact Dammy or Tim for more info.

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

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

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

## NEXT SUNDAY 23<sup>rd</sup> Dec:

### Advent 4

**10.15am: Christingle Service** in the Vicarage Hall for Children's groups, parents are welcome to stay. Depending on numbers you may need to collect your children.

**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.

### Other Services:

**11.00am: Family Service** St Mary's Island



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**Mon 24<sup>th</sup> Dec:** 4.00pm **Messy Crib Service**, St. Mary's Island

**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

**Sat 5<sup>th</sup> Jan:** 2pm-5pm **Cinema Club**, Moana



## FAMILY NEWS

### Follow the Star needs you!

We need volunteers for our Follow the Star festival on 24<sup>th</sup> December. Can you help with refreshments or cleaning up afterwards? 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**

**"I pray that out of His glorious riches He may strengthen you with power through His Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power together with all the LORD's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge - that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God."** Ephesians 3:16-19 (NIV UK)

**Thank you LORD that in You all answers rest and love, acceptance and self-knowledge reside. Please help me to grasp this truth that You truly love me and only want the best for me, so much so that You willingly died on a cross to save me from my sins. You are an awesome God, thank you for being You. Amen.**

**Bring to the LORD** anyone you know of that needs to grasp God's amazing love, hope and salvation in their lives... **Praise** that in the LORD, "I [can] trust in Your unfailing love; my heart rejoices in Your salvation. I will sing the LORD's praise, for He has been good to me." (Psalm 13:5-6)

**Pray** for the **Parish walk & leaflet distribution** happening today and ask the LORD to open hearts and minds to hear His message of love, hope and salvation... **Ask the LORD** to give you a Christmas service or event to pray for this week.

**Ask the LORD to give you a Mission Partner to pray for over the Christmas period.**

**Pray** for the **Men's Curry Night** happening this week will be a time of blessing, fun and encouragement.

**Pray** for God's will to happen in the final **BREXIT** deal that can unite our country and be fair for all sides in this dispute... **Ask the LORD** to protect the weak and vulnerable in our society.

**Pray** for the **Christmas Day CELEBRATION** will be a blessing for to all those who attend and they will sense the deep love and awe for our LORD and turn to Him.

**Pray** for the **Christingle Service** happening in the Vicarage Hall and the various children's groups attending... **Ask the LORD** to protect everyone involved... for all the resources and volunteers needed... **For all our Christmas Services** that everyone will have fun, joy and a new sense of wonder at what our LORD Jesus Christ achieved in taking our form as a baby in Bethlehem to being the risen LORD and saviour at Easter.

**Pray** for all those who are experiencing bullying or intimidation of whatever kind... **Praise** that, "I call on the LORD in my distress, and He answers me." (Psalm 120:1)

**Praise** that the DVLA says **Lynda Smith** can drive for the next 3 years.

**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 **Keith Sheepwash... for Sheryl Gowan ... for Gill Marchand and family ... for Terence Herbert... for June Bloor and family...for Michael Stacey** will be in hospital until after Christmas now...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**

Day	Psalm	1 <sup>st</sup> Reading	2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading
Mon 17 <sup>th</sup>	40	Isaiah 49.14-25	1 Thessalonians 5.1-11
Tues 18 <sup>th</sup>	70	Isaiah 50	1 Thessalonians 5.12-end
Weds 19 <sup>th</sup>	146	Isaiah 51.1-8	2 Thessalonians 1
Thurs 20 <sup>th</sup>	46	Isaiah 51.9-16	2 Thessalonians 2
Fri 21 <sup>st</sup>	121	Isaiah 51.17-end	2 Thessalonians 3
Sat 22 <sup>nd</sup>	124	Isaiah 52.1-12	Jude

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)**