

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:  
All Christmas Services

22<sup>nd</sup> December 2019

## SUNDAY 22<sup>nd</sup> December:

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent



10.30am Traditional  
Carol Service

Theme: Wondering:  
Luke 2:22-35

5.30pm: Carols in the Pub – King George V,  
Brompton

Other Services:

11.00am: Family Service – Lessons and  
Carols, St Mary's Island

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

**Monday-Friday during term time, St. Mark's  
Preschool, Vicarage Hall** – children need to be  
registered first. Open Mon, Tues, Thurs, 9.15am-  
3.15pm Weds & Fri 9.15am-12.15pm.

## WHAT'S ON DURING THIS WEEK:

**Tues 24<sup>th</sup> Dec:** 9.00am-noon: Church is open –  
Please speak to Dammy for details.

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

**Weds 25<sup>th</sup> Dec:** 10.30am  
Christmas Day – All Age Holy  
Communion Service

**Thurs 26<sup>th</sup> Dec:** 1.00pm-3.00pm: Foodbank, in  
Church

**Sat 28<sup>th</sup> Dec:** 7.00am-8.00am: Standing in the  
Gap – praying for families, youth & children's  
ministries, Old Vicarage

10.00am-noon: Foodbank, in church

## SUNDAY 29<sup>th</sup> December:

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Christmas

10.30am: Service of the Word –  
Theme: Wayfaring – Matthew  
2:13-15

6.30pm: No Evening Service

Other Services:

11.00am: Morning Worship, St Mary's Island



## SUNDAY 5<sup>th</sup> January 2020:

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Christmas

10.30am: All Age Service  
– Theme: New Year and full  
immersion baptisms

6.30pm: Communion and  
Prayer for Healing

Other Services:



11.00am: Communion, St. Mary's Island

**Mon 6<sup>th</sup> Jan 2020:** 9.15am St. Mark's  
Preschool restarts after Christmas break,  
Vicarage Hall

**Weds 8<sup>th</sup> Jan 2020:** 1.15pm: Parent &  
Toddlers restarts after Christmas break,  
Vicarage Hall

**Fri 10<sup>th</sup> Jan 2020:** 6.15pm-7.30pm: Kidz Klub  
restarts after the Christmas break, Old Vicarage

## SUNDAY 12<sup>th</sup> January 2020:

All Youth & Children's Groups restart today!

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Epiphany

10.30am: Holy Communion –  
Theme – Vision casting for  
Discipleship – why is it important?  
– Acts 2:42-47

6.30pm: Bible Stream will have a

panel of teachers to discuss questions such as 'Is  
the Bible completely inerrant?'. Please email  
[opsmanager@stmarksgillingham.org](mailto:opsmanager@stmarksgillingham.org) by 5<sup>th</sup> Jan if  
you have a question.

Other Services:

11.00am: Morning Worship, St Mary's Island

3.00pm: Charing House

5.00pm: St Mark's House

**Weds 15<sup>th</sup> Jan:** 6.30pm-8.30pm: Peace &  
Hope, Vicarage Hall



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

The church office will  
close from Friday 20<sup>th</sup> Dec  
and re-open on Thurs 2nd  
Jan. Katie will be away  
from Weds 18<sup>th</sup> Dec and



Merry Christmas

## FAMILY NEWS

Christmas Card Notice Board in aid  
of Tearfund is now open for  
service! Please place your card on  
the board and the donation in an



**envelope labled Tearfund and place this in the collection, thank you.**

We raised £722.63 for the **tearfund** October Harvest, thank you to all those who donated.

Ceila Dickenson would like to thank St Mark's for all the Christmas messages and wishes you all a very Merry Christmas.

*Please help Foodbank by donating food items as demand is outstripping supply! Find the items needed either on the Foodbank website or Twitter account. There will be a box at the back of the church with a sign saying 'Foodbank Collection Point'. Thank you.*

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



**"Praise the LORD. How good it is to sing praises to our God, how pleasant and fitting to praise Him! The LORD builds up Jerusalem; He gathers the exiles of Israel. He heals the broken hearted and binds up their wounds." Psalm 147:1-3 (NIV UK)**

**Thank you LORD, that You came to our world through Jesus Christ, gathered up the 'exiles' from Your Holy Word, the Bible, and saved us through Your loving grace. Please help us to let You 'bind our wounds' and build up Your holy church in us, so that the whole world will hear us praise Your Holy Name and seek Your salvation. Amen.**

**Continue to pray** for all our church leaders especially remembering Saju's sabbatical, Amanda, Simon, Chris and our Churchwardens Helen & Raymond... **Ask the LORD** to grant wisdom, encouragement and His Godly discernment in meeting the needs of our congregation for His glory's sake.

**Pray** for wisdom for our new government and that it will remember to care for all not just the few... **Ask the LORD** to be with those who are losing or fearful of losing their jobs, benefits or health.

**Pray** for our **Mission Partner, Medway Night Shelter...** **Ask the LORD** to provide all the resources necessary to help those in need especially those who need a second chance...

**Praise** that "Great is our LORD and mighty in power; His understanding has no limit." (147:5)

**Pray** for **Gay Gower** whose results from MRI scans are "worrying". She praises the LORD in these difficulties and can see His planning, timing and presence in her life.

**Ask the LORD** to remind you of His many blessings that can be turned into praise.

**Pray** for all the Christmas Services taking place in St. Mark's, St. Mary's Island and in the wider churches of the Medway Towns... **Ask the LORD** to rescue His people from their chains, the wisdom to seek Him and His salvation, so that they come to know, "How sweet are Your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!" (Psalm 119:103) and live!... **Praise** that we worship a God who hears, cares and loves us beyond measure.

**Pray** for everyone who came to the 'Empty Chair Service' last Sunday (Dec 15<sup>th</sup>) that they will begin to feel the LORD's gentle healing and their tears wiped away.

**Pray** for all those who are looking after family and friends with dementia... **Ask the LORD** to move hearts and minds in government, so that more finances can be released into the care system and help those in need.

**Pray** for those who were affected by the London Bridge Attack... **Ask the LORD** to bring His healing into the grief, shock and horror of everyone involved including the attacker's family.

**Pray** for **Derick Thom** who recently had hip replacement surgery... for **Michael Stacey**... for **Trish Martin**... for **Paul Smith**... for **Vera Adams** and **Keith Sheepwash**... and for anyone you know who needs the LORD at this time for whatever reason.

**Bring to the LORD** any situation whether in our church family, locally, nationally or internationally that you care about... **Praise** "Because the poor are plundered and the needy groan, I will now arise", says the LORD. "I will protect them from those who malign them." (Psalm 12:5)

**Please pray for:** All Mission Partners; All Christmas Services

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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 through the second door on the left, at the front of church (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 9.15am-1.15pm (by appointment only)**