

[Test] St Mark's Newsletter | Thurs 22nd July

1 message

St Mark's Church Gillingham <digitallead@stmarksgillingham.org>
Reply-To: us2-921a18b9d6-7f673de508@inbound.mailchimp.com
To: digitallead@stmarksgillingham.org

22 July 2021 at 18:41



COMING TO CHURCH

Dear St Mark's family,

I wanted to share what we'll be doing at church over the next six weeks and offer something of a way forward at this time. Acknowledging the reality of both joy and pain- from birth to death and in between. From the challenges of birth during Covid to not being able to collectively mourn and give thanks for the death of loved ones, there are so many stories in between that speaks of fear and pain. The Online church has been a blessing, many people around the world have appreciated our efforts for online church - for some are just waiting to get back to some sense of 'normal' because technology has its limits. Gratitude to God for answering our prayers, for the fabulous NHS & Vaccination rollout. As we welcome the freedom we are privileged to we must not forget the people and places around the world that don't have what we have. As we continue to live for Jesus love this town and learn together, may loving and caring for others be the driving force.

Here's what's going to happen at St. Mark's, the specific things that the reopening strategy team recommended and PCC agreed on last Monday and which we will review all this in early September:

BOOKING

We will continue to ask you to book for services. Please book by 12 noon on Saturday before the Sunday service. The number of people allowed in a service will increase as we will set the seating one metre apart. This will also allow us to keep details for test and trace and also enable us to know the seating requirements (ie singles, couples family groups). We would remind people not to attend services if you are unwell. **To book see the website or call the office 01634 570489.**

HAND SANITISING

You will be asked to sanitise your hands as you enter and leave the building.

FACE COVERINGS

We encourage and recommend that people continue to wear face masks in church, to protect themselves and others as we want to foster responsibility and care towards those who may be vulnerable in our church family.

SINGING

You can sing keeping on your mask to minimise transmission of airborne particles.

THE PEACE

We ask that people stand to greet one another without moving from their seats.

MOVING AROUND We will keep the direction of travel around church to a one-way system to help people to remember to be aware of others in church so that we can move around in an orderly way.

FOOD & DRINK

Tea and coffee will be served outside (weather permitting) in disposable cups. This will not be able to take place until we can put together teams to serve.

FELLOWSHIP

People are encouraged to connect and fellowship outside of church after the service finishes.

CAR PARK

The church car park will not be open for parking in for Sunday morning services as this area is used as a main exit and safely set up for after church fellowship.

As always I am available for a chat, to pray with you, to listen and to accompany you in your journey of discipleship. Please ask.

We take hold of the words of prophet Isaiah: Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

- Saju Muthalaly

THIS SUNDAY | 25TH JULY

MORNING SERVICE | 10.30am
In Church & Online



FRIENDSHIP | Moses and Aaron
- Complimentary Gifts
Speaker: Saju
Exodus 4: 10-17

CHILDREN & YOUTH GROUPS

GEMS & PEBBLES | 9am | Facebook
Join for another fun filled video from the team.

SUMMIT | 6pm | In Person



SUMMER GARDEN PARTIES
25th July | 22nd Aug
4 - 6pm
Old Vicarage Garden

We are hosting a number of Summer Garden Parties to give us all a chance to socialise & reconnect over tea & cake. Please sign up to attend one of these dates.

For more info & to RSVP call the office:
01634 570489

COMING WEEK



Standing in the Gap (Prayer meeting)
Saturdays | 7-8am | Online

On Zoom, join us:.
[Meeting ID: 223 851 1807 | Passcode: inthegap]



A garden project...
that gives.

Little Eden Project
Sundays | 2pm | St Augustine's
Wednesdays | 11am | St Mark's

Come and get stuck in with the garden project that gives. Run by Karen Turnbull.



Open Church Tuesdays | 10am-12pm | Church

Open Church is back! Come along for a chat, fellowship or private prayer. Refreshments will be served outside. Please be aware masks must be worn inside.

If you are interested in volunteering please contact Dammy via admin@stmarksgillingham.org.



Craft Club Tuesdays | 10am-12pm | Cafe Time on Gillingham High St

Bring your own craft or join in with craft of the week. For more information email karenturnbul@stmarksgillingham.org.



Parent & Toddlers Wednesdays | 1.15-2.45pm | Old Vicarage

Wednesdays in term time
Currently meeting outside in the Old Vicarage Garden – following Covid regulations



Daily Reflections & Prayers Mondays - Saturdays | 9am & 8pm | Online

As of May the new schedule will be:
Morning Reflections | 9am | Mon, Wed, Fri
Evening Prayers | 8pm | Tues, Thurs, Sat
Watch on our Facebook Page

NEWS & IMPORTANT INFORMATION

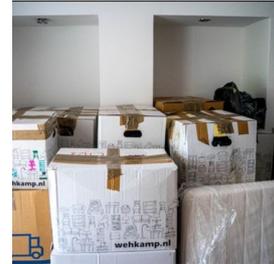
- **St Mark's Holiday Club** will be running in August for children aged 5-10 years. There will be fun activities, games, crafts, reflection and a free packed lunch provided.
TIME: 11am - 12.30pm
DATES: See website for session dates
COST: Free!
For more details and to sign up to go www.stmarksgillingham.org/holidayclub or call the office 01634 570489.



- We are looking for **volunteers** to do some **decorating** at the Old Vicarage and/or to do some **gardening** around the St Mark's site (mostly removing weeds and generally tidying up). If you are able to offer some time please contact the office:
vicarspa@stmarksgillingham.org | 01634 570489



- **Do you have anything stored in the Church Loft Space?** To ensure we keep on top of what we have stored around the church buildings and ensure we only keep hold of things we need, we are planning on having a sort of our storage spaces, beginning with the church loft space. Please can you contact Luke or the church office if you or one of the ministry areas have items currently stored in the church loft. Luke can then coordinate with everyone to ensure we know what we need to store and where, to ensure the safe and efficient use of the limited storage we have available to us in our buildings.
You can contact Luke on luke@prankard.co.uk or the office on 01634 570489



- **The Pastoral Team** invite you to get connected by filling out their form and providing your details so that they can contact you. Paper form are available in church.



- On **Sun 19th Sept at 6.30pm** there is going to be a **Baptism Service**, conducted in a covid-safe way. **Baptism** marks the beginning of a journey with God which continues for the rest of our lives, the first step in response to God's love. For all involved it is a joyful moment when we rejoice in what God has done for us in Christ, making serious promises and declaring the faith.
There will be a baptism preparation session on Sun 12th Sept 4 - 6pm. If you are interested in being baptised or in the renewal of baptism please **contact Vicki**,
vicarspa@stmarksgillingham.org | **01634 570489**.

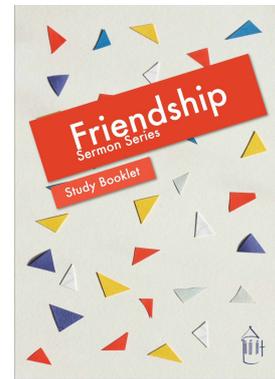


- Access to the Old Vicarage is only when absolutely necessary. Please contact the office, **01634 570489**, vicarspa@stmarksgillingham.org, if you need to make an appointment and do not drop by without prior arrangement. Vicki will be working in the Old Vicarage 3 days a week - Mon, Wed, Fri. On Tues and Thurs the answerphone and email will be checked for emergencies only. Messages and e-mails will be dealt with during office hours.



- We have produced a **booklet** to accompany the

new **Friendship sermon series**, which contains bible readings and questions. You can use the material in your small groups, trios or on your own. For a booklet see the website or call the office 01634 570489.



PLEASE PRAY FOR

OUR WORLD:

- For the **peoples of Germany and Belgium** so devastated with the recent extreme rains and flooding - that the Lord of Compassion minister into these damaged communities and hurting people; that major works of recovery come quickly and that neighbours care for one another.
- **Christian Solidarity Worldwide** - *Reports are emerging of religious leaders being among those detained amid unprecedented nationwide protests in Cuba* Let us join them in praying for peace.

GILLINGHAM & MEDWAY:

- For the Highways Agency, road and construction workers, out in this heat; for Council managers, staff and Councilors, that they show integrity, care and diligence; for Gillingham FC in dealing with Covid-19 infection and isolation; and for our neighbours, our community organisations and voluntary bodies.
- **Medway Foodbank.** Give thanks for - Lives changed through prayer, and good advice from excellent local orgs • God's continued leading and protection over our teams through this past year • Our new building - we are using this as the Delivery Centre currently - thank God for this provision.

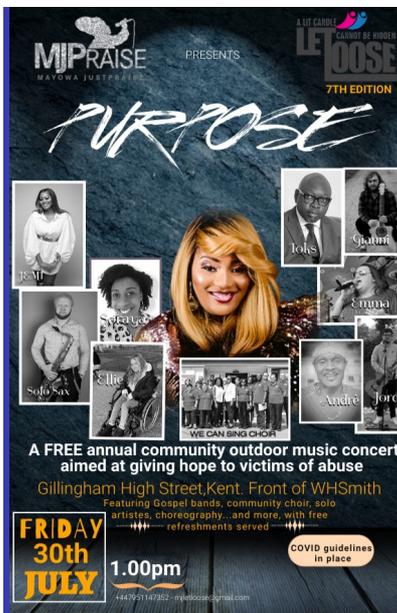
*If you would like to be added to the **Prayer & Praise** email list to receive weekly praise reports and prayer requests from our church family please contact Kath Burtrand: kathyb.nana@yahoo.co.uk*



UPCOMING EVENTS

LET LOOSE
Fri 30th July | 1pm
Gillingham High St

Let Loose is almost here!
Come and join us on Gillingham High St outside
WHSmiths. This annual community outdoor concert



will feature gospel bands, community choir, solo artistes, choreography and more! The event is aimed at giving hope to victims of abuse.



NEXT SUNDAY

1st Aug | 10.30am
[In Church & Online](#)

FRIENDSHIP | Ruth and Naomi - Loyalty

All Age Service
 [Ruth 1: 16-18]



CRICKET & BBQ

8th Aug | 1.30pm
 Rainham Cricket Club

St Mark's cricket team will be taking on the Gillingham Blasters. Come and enjoy the match and fellowship. The bar will be open and we'll be organising a BBQ. [Please click here to RSVP online](#) or call the office, 01634 570489, so we know numbers for catering.

HAVE A WONDERFUL WEEK



[Little Eden Garden Project]

Taken a nice photo of Gillingham? Send it to digitallead@stmarksgillingham.org to be featured in the newsletter.

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