

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

1 message

St Mark's Church Gillingham <digitallead@stmarksgillingham.org>
Reply-To: us2-921a18b9d6-4539511480@inbound.mailchimp.com
To: digitallead@stmarksgillingham.org

29 July 2021 at 11:06



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.

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.

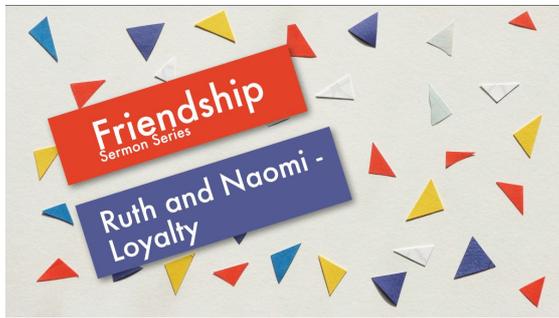
As always I am available for a chat, to pray with you, to listen and to accompany you in your journey of discipleship. Please ask.

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

To book see the website or call the office 01634 570489

THIS SUNDAY | 1ST AUG



MORNING SERVICE | 10.30am
In Church & Online

FRIENDSHIP | Ruth and Naomi
- Loyalty
All Age Service
[Ruth 1: 16-18]

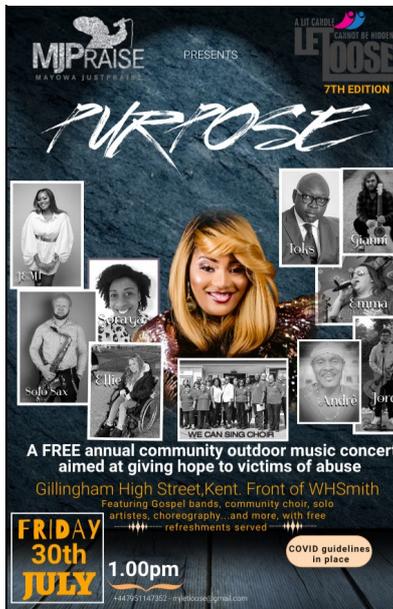
CHILDREN & YOUTH GROUPS

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

SUMMIT | 6pm | In Person



COMING WEEK



Let Loose
Friday | 1pm | Gillingham High St

It's tomorrow - do not miss out!

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.



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

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

Peace & Hope
Saturday | 11am-12pm | Church

A church community for adults with learning difficulties and their families and carers.



Little Eden

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 see the facebook page or email karenturnbull@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

- Next Sunday there will be a **BBQ at the St Mark's vs Gillingham Blasters cricket match**. Please RSVP by calling the office, 01634 570489, so that we know numbers for catering.



- Mind (North Kent) are running some drop-in **wellbeing sessions for children and young people**. Every Wednesday in August at St Augustine's Gillingham.



- There are just a few places left for some dates of **St Mark's Holiday Club**, which 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 available session dates

COST: Free!

For more details and to sign up to go

www.stmarksgillingham.org/holidayclub.



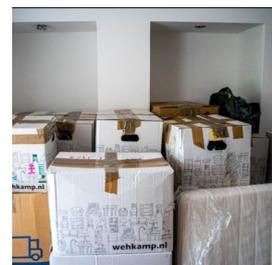
- We are looking for **volunteers** to do some **decorating** at the Old Vicarage and/or to do some **gardening** around the St Mark's site (mostly removing weeds and generally tidying up). If you are able to offer some time please contact the office:

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.



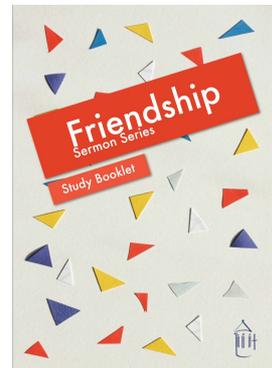
- On Sun 19th Sept at 6.30pm there is going to be a **Baptism Service**, conducted in a covid-safe way. **Baptism** marks the beginning of a journey with God which continues for the rest of our lives, the first step in response to God's love. For all involved it is a joyful moment when we rejoice in 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.



- 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 copy see the website or call the office 01634 570489.**



PLEASE PRAY FOR

OUR WORLD:

- For the **peoples of India, Germany and Belgium** so devastated with the recent extreme rains and flooding - that the Lord of Compassion minister into these damaged communities and to hurting people. Pray too for God's help and blessings in generous measure with recovery.
- For the people of **Iran's southwest Khuzestan province** where temperatures are extreme and there is severe water shortage and reported public protest; pray too for all those without access to clean water. Let us give thanks for the many water aid projects & agencies offering hope.
- For all the **athletes competing at the Olympics** in their commitments over many years; for their families unable to be with them; for good relationships and careful adherence to the Covid-19 precautions in place.

THE UK:

- For our leaders in Government, Devolved Administrations, Local Authorities and Parish Councils ... so many decisions to be made ... may the Lord guide in all wisdom and wise counsel.

GILLINGHAM & MEDWAY:

- A body has been recovered after emergency crews were recently called to Rochester Bridge, due to concerns for an adult in the water. Pray for the **grieving family** concerned and give thanks for Kent Police officers and the other attending emergency services.
- For **holiday clubs** and organised activities for our children & young people, that they are well run; that there is fun, laughter & fulfilment, and where they can grow and thrive. Also, for families in the holidays, particularly where life is difficult or challenging - may the Lord usher in His loving care & provision.
- For our bus and coach **drivers**, HGV, goods and van drivers; taxi and cab drivers, and all road users - for consideration for other on the roads and for pedestrians; for cutting speeds and for safety & protection.
- For God's covering over our communities and town centres - in the air space above, to the gutters below; for the open spaces, parks and green areas; for the busy and bustling areas and the hidden places.

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

	<p>NEXT SUNDAY 8th Aug 10.30am In Church & Online</p> <p>FRIENDSHIP Job - Friends With Good Intentions Speaker: Lynne Martin [Job 2: 11-13]</p> <p>We will also be having a Meet the Home Group Leaders segment, so don't miss that.</p>
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	<p>NEXT SUNDAY - Meet the Home Group Leaders</p> <p>As part of the service we will be introducing the homegroup leaders and talking about the vision of homegroups. There will also be the chance to sign up to a group after the service.</p>
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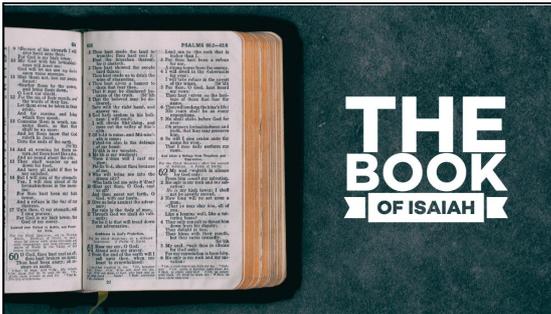
CRICKET & BBQ



**Cricket & BBQ
Sun 8th Aug
Rainham Cricket Club**

**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 RSVP by calling the office, 01634 570489, so we know numbers for catering.



**BIBLE STREAM
8th Aug | 6.30pm | Online**

[The Book of Isaiah] with Bernie Pinner. Join as we are awed by the holiness and justice of God, and to anticipate his final salvation.

HAVE A WONDERFUL WEEK



[Music Man Project Summer Concert]

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

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