

[Test] St Mark's Newsletter | Thurs 5th Aug

1 message

St Mark's Church Gillingham <digitallead@stmarksgillingham.org>
Reply-To: us2-921a18b9d6-834a26a730@inbound.mailchimp.com
To: digitallead@stmarksgillingham.org

5 August 2021 at 09:12



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.

To book see the website or call the office 01634 570489. Please book by 12pm 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

THIS SUNDAY | 8TH AUG

MORNING SERVICE | 10.30am



In Church & Online

FRIENDSHIP | Job - Friends With Good Intentions

Speaker: Lynne Martin
[Job 2: 11-13]



Meet the Home Group Leaders

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.

CHILDREN & YOUTH GROUPS

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

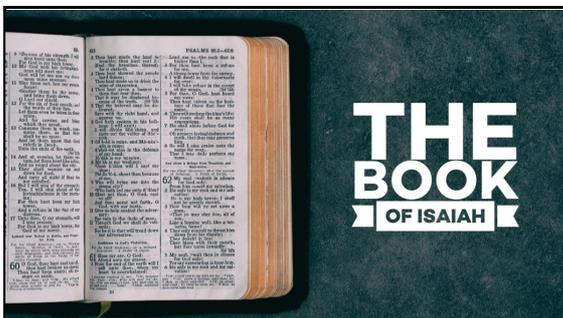
SUMMIT | 6pm | In Person
[More details](#)



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. **Bring drinks and snacks.** The bar will be open and we'll be organising a BBQ. RSVP online or call the office, 01634 570489, so we know numbers for catering.



BIBLE STREAM

8th Aug | 6.30pm
In Church & Online

Bible Stream will be back meeting in church with a live stream also available to watch on facebook. Drinks will be available outside.

[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.

COMING WEEK



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

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



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.



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

NEWS & IMPORTANT INFORMATION

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



Registered Charity No.1103790

- There are a few spaces left for the sessions on 17th/18th/19th Aug 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.

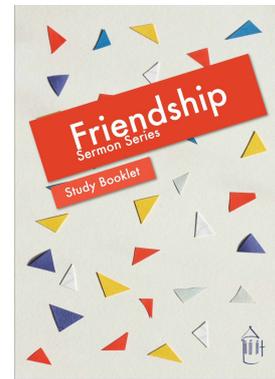


- Access to the Old Vicarage is only when absolutely necessary. Please contact the office, **01634 570489**, vicarspa@stmarksgillingham.org, if you need to make an appointment and do not drop by without prior arrangement. Vicki will be working in the Old Vicarage 3 days a week - Mon, Wed, Fri. On Tues 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 call the office 01634 570489,



PLEASE PRAY FOR

OUR WORLD:

- Pray through the news we hear & see and for the needs highlighted through the various links with charities and mission organisations. Remember too ...
- **The impoverished**, the sick and those caught in violent situations, that help may come in unexpected ways to minister into their plight. Please pray for those parts of the world and situations on your heart.

UK:

- **The family of Logan Williamson**, the 5-year-old who has been found in the Ogmore River, Bridgend. Pray for God's many comforts in this tragedy and loss.
- For **GB athletes** who have contributed so much to a successful Olympic Games; for their families, trainers & supporters; for continuing good sportsmanship throughout; and for all Olympic athletes.
- **Students** on summer break that they can unwind and take time out; for those preparing to go to Colleges, Universities and Training Establishments in September; those who will continue their ongoing studies; and for our teachers, tutors and trainers that they may know rest and relaxation.

GILLINGHAM & MEDWAY:

- For **the family of Rory Baldwin** from Farnham in Surrey, who went missing after a night out with friends and was last seen near the Vines, Rochester. Kent Online states his body has been found in St Margaret's Street, Rochester.
- For **holiday clubs** and organised activities for our children & young people, that they are well run; for fun, laughter & fulfilment, and that 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 God's covering over our communities and town centres - in the air space above, to the gutters below; for the open spaces, parks and riversides; 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

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|  | <p>NEXT SUNDAY 8th Aug 10.30am In Church & Online</p> <p>FRIENDSHIP Rahab and Joshua: Unlikely Allies Speaker: David Wilkins [1 Kings 17]</p> |
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| <p>REVIVE</p> <p>A relaxed & intimate gathering for Christians & non-Christians alike, where no question about life or faith is off-limits!</p> <p>Sun 15th Aug at 4pm. Tea/coffee served.</p>  | <p>REVIVE 15th Aug 4-5.30pm Outside Church</p> <p>Revive is back! A relaxed and interactive gathering for Christians and non-Christians alike, where no question about life or faith is off-limits. It will not be live streamed.</p> <p>Tea/coffee will be available.</p> |
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HAVE A WONDERFUL WEEK



[Let Loose]

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

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