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**[Test] St Mark's Newsletter | Thurs 9th Dec**

1 message

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**St Mark's Church Gillingham** <digitallead@stmarksgillingham.org>  
Reply-To: us2-921a18b9d6-28a5f81fc4@inbound.mailchimp.com  
To: digitallead@stmarksgillingham.org

8 December 2021 at 14:12

**THIS SUNDAY - 12th DEC****MORNING SERVICE**

12th Dec | 10.30am | Church  
3rd Sunday of Advent  
Lessons & Carols  
Speaker: Ernie Mann

**CHILDREN & YOUTH GROUPS**

**GEMS & PEBBLES** | 10.30am | Vicarage Hall  
Parents can drop their children off from 10.15am and pick them up at 12pm.  
**SUMMIT** | 7pm | Old Vicarage

**EMPTY CHAIR SERVICE**

12th Dec | 3pm | Church

Christmas is not the “most wonderful time of the year” for everyone. This is true for those who have lost a loved one. The Empty Chair is a permanent reminder of their loved one who used to occupy it but no more. Christmas will never be quite the same again. The Empty Chair service is offered for those in such a situation to provide an assurance of God’s love and comfort over this time. There will be an opportunity to light a candle and tie a heart to a tree in remembrance of that special person. Light refreshments will be available afterwards. Please tell others you know who may appreciate this service

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**COMING WEEK****Community Groups****Throughout the week**

Karen Turnbull, Community Pastor, runs a number of groups throughout the week.

**Home Groups****Throughout the week**

Joining a home group is a brilliant chance to meet and pray with others, build relationships, support one another, exchange views and explore God's word together. Contact the office for more info.

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### **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 | 10.30am - 12pm | Vicarage Hall**

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

### **Open Church**

**Tuesdays | 10am-12pm | Church**

Come along for a chat, fellowship, private prayer or craft club!. Refreshments will be served outside. Please be aware masks are advised. If you are interested in volunteering please contact Dammy via [admin@stmarksgillingham.org](mailto:admin@stmarksgillingham.org).

### **Parent & Toddlers**

**Wednesdays | 1.15-2.45pm | Vicarage Hall**

No need to book, just drop up.

Wednesdays in term time.

### **Daily Reflections & Prayers**

Wednesday 9am & Saturdays 8pm | Online Watch on our Facebook Page

## **NEWS & IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

- **St Barnabas** is being used for checking the **shoeboxes for Blyswood care**. They still have a large number of boxes to check and the last lorry leaves for Romania on 17<sup>th</sup> December. If anyone could give even a couple of hours please get in touch with **Yvonne Robinson on 07906578328**
- No one should be alone at Christmas, come and spend **Christmas Day at the Salvation Army**. **10am** Christmas day service, followed by Christmas dinner, carols, refreshments and the Queen's speech. Please pass onto anyone you think might be interested. Book your free place: 01634 851224 | [contact@gillinghamcorps.info](mailto:contact@gillinghamcorps.info)

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### **PLEASE PRAY FOR:**

- **Java** following the volcanic activity and the tragic loss of life, injuries and many challenges; **Ethiopia's governance** as concerns continue about ethnic profiling and much suffering - 6 countries have come together to raise their concerns. The horn of Africa, where droughts are expected to continue through to the middle of 2022 - Lord have mercy. For the many suffering nations, may the weight of our Sovereign Lord's Holy power rebalance the scales of Justice and Righteousness.
- For the **UK and European talks** about how best to overcome refugee and migrant deaths as people seek a safer or better life - for Godly wisdom in different approaches, fairness & equity.

- For our **NHS** in dealing with the daily demands on staff; and all those helping with the UK 'booster' rollout.
- For those afflicted and grieving loss by violence and cruelty, remembering little **Arthur Labinjo-Hughes** - and young **Ava White** and for all those grieving because of violent tragedies in recent times - may the Lord bring comfort in grief, loss and pain and bring the plans of evildoers to nought. Lord, help us to listen to needy cries for help, and to act.
- For the reinstatement of **power supplies** to many communities affected by the recent and severe UK weather, especially those areas expecting further severe storms from today; and strength for those tasked with ongoing repairs in such dreadful circumstances.
- **The Muthalaly family** as they relocate to Loughborough; St Mary's Island Church family and their church wardens; St Mark's Church family, including our Church Wardens and PCC; Rob and Raymond in their continuing ministry training at new churches and for their families; and strength for those enduring difficulties and distress at this time, that God's Peace surround them.
- **Gillingham & Medway** - For our public service workers, those in the care sector, and those who are carers for their family. For those who volunteer, who show care for others and who are committed to helping those in need. We are blessed indeed in our various communities.

*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](mailto:kathyb.nana@yahoo.co.uk)*

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Peace & Hope Film Night

Fri 17th Dec | 6.30-8pm | Vicarage Hall

We'll be having a film and food night. Please RSVP to Karen (07964334878) so that we know numbers. Peace & Hope is a church community for adults with learning difficulties and their families and carers that meets fortnightly.

### CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL

18th Dec | 5pm | Church

[In Church & Online](#)

Carols, drama, community choir, a new unity song and a message that takes us to the heart of the Christmas story. A perfect chance to invite friends along to church. Flyers available in church on the welcome desk, feel free to take some to give to friends.

### SUNDAY SERVICE

19th Dec | 10.30am | Church

[In Church & Online](#)

#### 4th Sunday of Advent

**Speaker:** Jane Bannar-Martin

**Readings:** Luke 1:39-56 and Galatians 5:22-26

#### Christmas Day Service

Sat 25th Dec | 10.30am

#### Sunday Service

Sun 26th Dec | 10.30am

**Watchnight Service**

Fri 31st Dec | 11pm

## HAVE A WONDERFUL WEEK

St Mark's Church  
Canterbury Street, Gillingham, ME7 5TP  
Registered Charity 1141709

Office: The Old Vic, Vicarage Road, Gillingham, ME7 5JA  
01634 570 489 | [admin@stmarksgillingham.org](mailto:admin@stmarksgillingham.org)

**Office hours:**

Monday, Wednesday & Fridays | 9.30am - 2.30pm  
Tuesday & Thursdays | Answerphone & email checked for emergencies.

*Please contact the office if you need to make an appointment & do not drop by without prior arrangement.*

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