# **THIS SUNDAY – 27th November**

MORNING SERVICE, 10.30am  
[**In Church**](https://www.stmarksgillingham.org/Articles/607245/Church_Building_Open.aspx?redirected=1)**,** [**Facebook**](https://www.facebook.com/stmarksgillingham) **and** [**Youtube**](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC1b5IAYzi3iBqXPBu0OnRrQ/videos?view=2&live_view=502)  
  
**Title:** Service of the word  
**Speaker**: Catharina Olsson Gisleskog

**Reading:** Matthew 24:36-44 - First Sunday of Advent

CHILDREN & YOUTH GROUPS

**GEMS & PEBBLES**

Children’s groups will be running as usual Sunday. Parents can drop their children off from 10.15am and pick them up at 12pm.   
  
**SUMMIT | 7pm | Old Vicarage**  
Summit will be running as usual.

## This 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. [Take a look at the groups and sign up here](https://www.stmarksgillingham.org/Groups/268148/Small_Groups.aspx) or contact the office.

Ladies Group

Meet at the Old Vicarage from 10am – 12 noon each Wednesday.

Last Wednesday of the month men are very welcome to join.

We are currently studying the book of Jonah.

Tea/Coffee, biscuits and cakes are served.

Standing in the Gap (Prayer meeting)

**Saturdays | 7 - 8am | Online**

On Zoom, join us [online here](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2238511807?pwd=TU94WVN3cDlaSWxnejhHZTYxMTdvdz09).  
[Meeting ID: 223 851 1807 | Passcode: inthegap]

Open Church  
**Tuesday | 10am - 12pm | Church**

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

Dementia Cafe

23rd November and the 14th December|1pm to 3pm | Church

Parent & Toddlers

Wednesdays, 1.15-2.45pm, Vicarage Hall

Fun space for children to play and for parents/guardians to connect. No need to book, just drop up. Wednesdays in term time.

The Gathering

**Join the Junction Small Group for an intimate time with God and the Bible in the Old Vicarage on Wednesday evenings at 7.30 pm,  
on 2nd and 4th Wednesdays in the month.  
All welcome.**

Peace and Hope

3rd December, 10:30am, Vicarage Hall

Kids Gospel Choir

Every Wednesday, 5:30-6:30, Church

Gospel Night

Sunday 27th November, 6:30pm

Medway Open Lecture Series 2022/23  
   
A collaboration between Kent, Greenwich and Canterbury Christ Church universities.   
Lectures open to the public, as well as staff and students.  
These will generally be one lecture on the last Wednesday of the month from 6-7pm, delivered in the Pilkington Lecture Theatre.  
The first four lectures have been confirmed and you can book a free ticket here:  [**BOOK**](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/medway-talks-universities-at-medway-open-lecture-series-tickets-428547987567)

### **NEWS & IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

Christmas 2022 at St Mark’s Church, Gillingham

Sunday 27 November: 10.30am 1st Sunday of Advent, Service of the Word

Sunday 27 November: 6.30pm Gospel Night

Saturday 3 December: 2.30pm Messy Church, Community Christmas Party

Sunday 4 December: 10.30am 2nd Sunday of Advent, All Age Service

Sunday 11 December: 10.30am 3rd Sunday of Advent

Sunday 11 December: 3.00pm Empty Chair Service

Saturday 17 December: 3.00pm Gospel Carols: Jesus’ Birthday Party

Sunday 18 December: 10.30am 4th Sunday of Advent, Service of Holy Communion

Saturday 24 December: 11.00pm St Mary’s Island, Service of Holy Communion

Sunday 25 December: 10.30am Christmas Day

Saturday 31 December: 11.00pm Gospel Night, Praise Night

You, and your whole family, are warmly invited to join us at any of our Christmas Services.

Christmas Community Choir

Would you like to meet new people and sing in a community choir. Refreshments will be available. Preform in various places for Christmas. Everyone is welcome. Rehearsals will start at the end of October. Please get in touch. Please contact the organisers either via phone: 07951147352 or email : singgillinghamsing@gmail.com

We would like to let you all know that Margaret Howlett died on Wednesday 23 November.  Please keep her family in your prayers.

#### PLEASE PRAY –

Worldwide –

* The **G20 in Bali**, for wise use of power and authority in important issues for the world.
* The **Java earthquake, Indonesia** where over 100 have died and hundreds injured as well as vast numbers displaced: May needs be met, medical interventions made, shelters be provided, and kind ministrations made with generosity.
* **COP27**, that commitment to the Loss & Damage Fund for those countries most in need of financial support is fulfilled.
* The peoples of **Ukraine** that they are upheld in their faith and that they are encouraged.
* **Pakistan** still coping and recovering from severe flooding and disease.

The UK –

* for hope in times of financial constraint and, for many, grave difficulties
* for young people to have good role models, healthy aspirations, and positive things to aim;
* for the youth groups. churches and charities working & supporting young people.

God’s Church –

* For the different **groups that meet** across St Mark’s and SMIC, leaders, helpers and members; and for next Sunday’s service, the 1st Sunday of Advent.
* The building up of **community links by churches**, responding to many changing community needs.
* For **David Wilkins** in starting his new job with the British Antarctic Survey in Cambridge, in his new living arrangements and as he familiarises himself with local amenities/transport etc. **Green Christian** [https://greenchristian.org.uk](https://greenchristian.org.uk/) is a community of ordinary Christians from all backgrounds and traditions … ‘*Inspired by our faith, we work to care for Creation through prayer, living simply, public witness, campaigning and mutual encouragement’*

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)

John Weir’s Funeral

Please pray for the God of compassion to be close to **Sally Bloor**, family and friends, as they prepare for John’s funeral on the afternoon of Friday 25th November.

The funeral will take place on Friday 25 November at 3.30pm at the Medway Crematorium, Robin Hood Lane.

A service of Thanksgiving and Celebration of John’s life will follow at St Mark’s at 4.30pm.

Should you wish to send flowers in memory of John :

John Weir, 130-132 High Street, Rainham, Kent, ME8 8AR

Or:

Donate to the Family Trust.  This charity was chosen  because John’s passion was working with young people and he volunteered for many years for The Family Trust, going into schools and producing assemblies as well as helping out at Kings Squad, a lunchtime club.   A donation to support the work of The Family Trust and help to inspire the next generation to explore Christianity can be made in the following ways:

·        Visit The Family Trust website at [familytrust.org.uk](http://familytrust.org.uk/) and click on the donate button

·        Post a cheque to The Family Trust, 4 Buckland Road, Maidstone, ME16 0SL

·        Set up a bank transfer to The Family Trust, Sort code: 40-52-40,

Account number: 00018624, Reference: In Memory Of John Bloor

Foodbank

If you would like to donate to foodbank here is the link to the shopping list of things that are needed for those who are in need.

[file:///C:/Users/Student.26327/AppData/Local/Packages/microsoft.windowscommunicationsapps\_8wekyb3d8bbwe/LocalState/Files/S0/5/Attachments/Shopping%20List%20July-August%2022\_large[1640].pdf](file:///C:/Users/Student.26327/AppData/Local/Packages/microsoft.windowscommunicationsapps_8wekyb3d8bbwe/LocalState/Files/S0/5/Attachments/Shopping%20List%20July-August%2022_large%5b1640%5d.pdf)

STAMPS FOR LEPROSY MISSION

David Norton has asked that people collect stamps from any letters they receive. If you could keep them until you have a few and then give them to David, he will pass these to the Leprosy Mission.

OPEN CHURCH/WARM SPACE – Tuesdays between 10.00 am and 2.00 pm

We are all aware of the rising energy costs and we would like to offer a place where people can come to be warm. We are looking for people who are willing to volunteer on Tuesday mornings to man the church. This will enable us to open to offer a Warm Space for people to come where we will serve tea, coffee and or cup of soup. If you are available any time between 10.00 am and 2.00 pm on Tuesdays and would be willing to help on a rota basis please get in touch with the church office. Other churches in Gillingham are opening on other days in the week, and once we have volunteers we will be included on a flyer which will show details of all available Warm Spaces.

WARM CLOTHING

Do you own any good quality warm clothing, coats, hats, scarves, gloves, blankets etc that you no longer need. Please donate these to Street Angles to help others.

##### Upcoming Events

NEXT SUNDAY

**4th December, 10.30am, Church**  
  
**Title:** All Age  
**Speaker**: All Age Team

**Reading:**

Thank you for the week

Thank you for those who planed and participated in Peace and Hope and Tearfund Big Quiz Night.

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 & Thursday | 10.00am - 2.00pm  
Fridays | 10:00am – 12 noon   
***Please contact the office if you need to make an  
appointment & do not drop by without prior arrangement.***