# **THIS SUNDAY -  25th December**

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:** Christmas Day
**Speaker**: Catharina Olsson Gisleskog

CHILDREN & YOUTH GROUPS

All Children and Youth groups will be not on until the new year dates for when they are back on will be added on the next newsletter.

## 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.

Dementia Cafe

28th December, 11th January, 25th January |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.**

### **NEWS & IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

Christmas 2022 at St Mark’s Church, Gillingham

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.

Office Closure

The office will be closing for Christmas and new year from Thursday 22nd December to Wednesday 4th January. In case of any emergency please contact the church wardens Karen Dyer or Seun Adigun, you can also use this email address: karen.dyer@stmarksgillingham.org

The newsletter will also be not running next week on the 29th December but will be back the next Thursday 5th January.

Holy Communion

If you are unable to get to Church and would like to have communion brought to your home, please contact the Church office.  admin@stmarksgillingham.org 01634 570489.  You need to live in St Mark’s parish and be happy for your contact details to be passed to the home communion team.

Prayer Meetings for 2023

Meetings between 7 and 9pm

4th January, Old Vicarage, Vicarage Road, ME7 5JA. 1st February, Old Vicarage. 1st March, Old Vicarage.

5th April, St Mark’s, 1 Canterbury Street, ME7 5TP. 3rd May, St Mark’s. 7th June, St Mark’s. 5th July, St Mark’s. 9th August, St Mark’s. 6th September, St Mark’s. 4th October, St Mark’s. 1st November, St Mark’s.

6th December, Old Vicarage.

Alpha Course

The Alpha course starts 23rd January 2023 for 10 weeks, on Mondays 6:30pm – 9:30pm. For more information, please follow the link to the Alpha Course website.

<https://alpha.org.uk/>

#### PLEASE PRAY –

Worldwide –

* **For India/China Border** along a disputed area where tensions are high and India has scaled up troop deployment - may there be peace.
* **Ukraine** that they know victory in the Lord, with an end to the invasion by Russia, and that Belarus does not actively support Russia in its intentions.
* For the people of **Thailand**, following the capsize and sinking of one of their warships, with 75 rescued but 31 missing - may they also be found.

The UK –

* For the families and communities of the 4 young boys who died in the Solihull lake tragedy.
* For our country in the grip of many strikes, that there may be ways forward to ease the many difficulties and sufferings
* for those who have lost their jobs due to so much disruption
* for our NHS and those that need their help.
* For the **charities and good causes** we support and care about in tight financial times, that the work continues abundantly to benefit many.

God’s Church –

* For those who have or will be attending services where the Holy Word is spoken – that Lord God continues to bless it to them.

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*

Any questions, please email, catharina@stmarksgillingham.org

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%3A/Users/Student.26327/AppData/Local/Packages/microsoft.windowscommunicationsapps_8wekyb3d8bbwe/LocalState/Files/S0/5/Attachments/Shopping%20List%20July-August%2022_large%5B1640%5D.pdf)

Medway Night Shelter

There are some gaps available for working and supporting this important work with the homeless, with a zoom training available too … ‘We are still on the lookout for volunteers to help with cooking 5.30-8.30pm on Thursday, Friday and Saturday’. If you would like to be involved or donate, contact by email  medwayshelter@gmail.com

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

1st January **, 10.30am, Church**

**Title:** New Year All Age
**Speaker**: All Age Team

Gospel night- New year’s celebrations

Saturday 31st December 11pm-12:15am

Come and join in a midnight celebration to bring in the new year with Christ. All welcome, Refreshments and non-alcoholic bubbly served as well as other drinks.

Thank you for the week

Thank you to all the people who did the readings and those who sang and played the carols.

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

**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.***