

150 years



MARKtime

St. Mark's Church, Gillingham
with St. Mary's Island Church

Living for Jesus; Loving Gillingham;
Learning Together

Mission Focus February & March:
India 2018 & Tearfund

St. Mark's Group/events for February
& March: **Prayer Ministry Teams & PCC**

26th February 2017



1st Sunday before Lent

10.30am: Service of the Word

Theme: Lent series (1) "God's Creative Word"

Reading: Genesis 1:1-2:3

12.30pm: India 2018 Fundraising 'Auction of Gifts, Talents and Services' in Church

after a soup and bread lunch.

6.30pm: Holy Communion

Theme: "Feasting on the Word" - an evening of the word and sacrament

Other Services & events: 11.00am **Family Service**, St. Mary's Island

7.30pm-9.15pm **Landmark**, Old Vicarage

Prayer Ministry: *If you would like someone to pray with you or to share concerns with, then members of the prayer team are available in the small chapel at the front of church.*

Monday-Friday during term time 9.15am-12.15pm, St. Mark's Pre-school, Vicarage Hall - Children need to be registered first.

WHAT'S ON WEEK BEGINNING 27th FEB

Weds 1st March: 9.00am-10.00am **Ash Wednesday Holy Communion** in Church

10.00am **Ladies Group**, Old Vicarage

1.15pm **Parents & Toddlers**, Vicarage Hall

6.30pm-8.30pm **Faith and Light**, Vicarage Hall

7.30pm-8.30pm **Ash Wednesday Meditation and Communion** in Church

Thurs 2nd March: 1.00pm-3.00pm **Foodbank**, Church

7.00pm-9.30pm **Alpha** with supper included, Old Vicarage

Fri 3rd March: 1.00pm **Women's World Day of Prayer**, United Reform Church, Balmoral Road, Gillingham. *If you would like to help by reading at the service, please contact Pam Tolhurst by 26th February:*

ptolhurst02@gmail.com or 07889 941092.

Fri 3rd March: 6.15pm **Kidz Klub**, ages 7-11, Old Vicarage

8.00pm **Table-Tennis Club** - All St Mark's over 18's welcome, Vicarage Hall

Sat 4th March: 10.00am-12.00noon **Foodbank**

7.00pm for 7.30pm **India 2018 Tearfund Concert** with Jonica, in Church. Tickets £5 on the door. **See poster on India Board.**

Small/Home Groups meet in various locations at different times throughout the week - please speak to Gary or Chris Atkins if you would like to be in a mid-week group.

Tearfund SUNDAY 5th March

1st Sunday of Lent

10.30am: All-Age Service - followed by a cheese and bread lunch, please bring some money to donate the amount you'd pay for lunch to help the people of our connected church!

6.30pm: Holy Communion

Other Services/Events: 11.00am **Holy Communion** St. Mary's Island.

7.30pm-9.15pm **Landmark**, Old Vicarage

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sat 11th March: 10.30am-12.00noon **Faith & Light Juniors**, Vicarage Hall

Thurs 16th March: 7.00pm for 7.30pm start **Foodbank Prayer & Praise** meeting at the Salvation Army, Church Street, Chatham ME4 4BT

Sun 19th March: 11.00am **Morning Service & AGM** St. Mary's Island.

Fri 31st March: 10.00am **Lydia Prayer Meeting**, Old Vicarage

FAMILY NEWS

St. Mary's Island Church is looking for a part-time administrator to work 10 hours per week, based at St. Mark's Parish Office. Closing date Monday 13th March with interviews on Monday 20th March.

For more information &/or application pack please contact John Bloor or the Church Office

There is an audio download of the India Trip Meeting (9th Jan 2017) on St. Mark's Church website, which can be found under "other audio" or looking on the general media database for those who are interested.

'Baobab' is the new Christian Bookshop/Drop in Centre, open 10.00am-5.00pm, Mon-Sat, 2 Batchelor Street, Chatham, ME4 4BJ, 01634 840862. Please support this new venture!

'Lent Bible Feast' - daily readings for Lent, available today!





POINTS FOR PRAISE AND PRAYER

"We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies." Romans 8:22-23 (NIV UK)

Heavenly Father please help us to remember in good times and bad that You are the way, the truth and the life and through You all of our needs are met in Jesus our LORD. Thank you that in giving each one of us who cherish Your holy name "Sonship" You have made us Your blessed princes and princesses in Your holy kingdom. We are Your "treasured possession" (Deuteronomy 14:2). Amen.

Praise for all that the LORD is doing for the **El Campello Christian Community Church**, in Spain. This includes the recent visit from YWAM, which now means that the community has live music most weeks led by young and very talented musicians who have accepted Jesus in their lives during the last 18 months.

Margaret Weston writes, "We are continuing to see new faces nearly every week. We need more translation equipment, and will soon need more chairs."

Pray for wisdom to continue to grow in the LORD... for finance especially as many in the community are in financial difficulties... for more mature Christian workers to teach and lead... for protection and healing especially for Caroline, Carol, Peter and Fiona.

Pray that all the people who are on the **Alpha Course** will continue to grow in the knowledge of Jesus... will feel safe to ask questions and explore the Christian faith... will make close friends and feel committed to the course... **Praise the LORD** that He is continually reaching out to the Medway Towns with His message of love, mercy and redemption.

Praise that **Lynn Martin** has been offered the post of **Medway Campus Chaplain... Pray** for the changes and challenges ahead.

Continue to pray for **WOTS (Word on the Street) staff** who are being made redundant on March 31st and their futures.

Praise that **Chris Blewett** has been accepted for an additional year of study called 'A Year in Computing'.

Ask the LORD to bless, encourage, equip and heal the **Prayer Ministry Teams** week by week...

Praise that the LORD says, "Wherever I cause my name to be honoured. I will come to you and bless you." (Exodus 20:24)

Pray for **India 2018** and for all the fundraising events today and in the future... **Ask the LORD** to pour our His Spirit on our church community... the Medway Towns... and wherever He takes us.

Pray for **Tearfund** and our connected Church in India.

Pray for wisdom for the **PCC** as the LORD brings changes and creates new opportunities in our community life.

Pray that the advertisement for our '**Head of Youth, Children & Families**' will reach the person who the LORD has already prepared for this role... **Pray** for discernment for those involved in short-listing and interviewing at the end of March.

Pray for **Ian Recardo's father Harry... for Michael Stacey... for Steve Burtrand... for Mo Chen... for Derick & Terri Thom & family... for Michelle Saunders' dad... for Nev Piper... for Don Miller... for Keith Sheepwash... for** and others known to us who are in need of God's comfort and healing touch.

Pray for our Mission focus February & March: **India 2018 & Tearfund ... Please pray** for our St. Mark's Group for February & March: **Prayer Ministry Teams & PCC...**

Bible readings for February/March 2017

Day	Psalm	1 st Reading	2 nd Reading
Mon 27 th	80	Jeremiah 1	John 3.1-21
Tues 28 th	89.1-18	Jeremiah 2.1-13	John 3.22-end
Weds 1 st March	38	Daniel 9.3-6, 17-19	1 Timothy 6.6-19
Thurs 2 nd	77	Jeremiah 2.14-32	John 4.1-26
Fri 3 rd	3	Jeremiah 3.6-22	John 4.27-42
Sat 4 th	71	Jeremiah 4.1-18	John 4.43-end

Except for the first Sunday of the month **during term time**, groups for children and young teenagers meet at the Old Vicarage & the Carer's Centre respectively, each Sunday morning. All our youth & children's workers are DBS checked for your child's protection and safety. **If you have young children** please feel free to take your children to the Creche area at the back of church, near the sound desk (ask if you can't see it). Children are important to us at St. Mark's and we want them to be happy. Please feel free to let them play quietly in the Creche; **we just ask that you stay with them and leave the area tidy!**