

150 years



866-2016

# MARKtime

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

Living for Jesus; Loving Gillingham;  
Learning Together

Mission Focus December: **All  
Mission Partners**

St. Mark's Group/events for  
December: **All Christmas Services**

**11<sup>th</sup> December 2016**

## Advent 3



**10.30am: Holy Communion - No SOS today, meeting up next week (18<sup>th</sup> December) for Christmas Party!**

**6.30pm-7.00pm: Service of the Word**

Reading: Luke 1:67-79

Theme: The Original Christmas Playlist - Zechariah's Song

**7.00pm-9.00pm Pub Carols @ the Dog & Bone, 19 Jeffery Street, Gillingham ME7 1DE.**

Other Services & events:

**11.00am Morning Worship**, St. Mary's Island

**3.00pm-4.30pm Faith & Light and Faith & Light Juniors Christmas Party**, Vicarage Hall

**3.00pm** Charing House Carol Service

**5.00pm** St. Mark's House Carol Service

**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 THIS WEEK?

**Mon 12<sup>th</sup> Dec:** 7.30pm-9.15pm **Landmark Adventures in Advent**, Old Vicarage

**Weds 14<sup>th</sup> Dec:** 9.00am **Holy Communion**, Church

10.00am **Ladies Group**, Old Vicarage

1.15pm-2.45pm **Parents & Toddlers Christmas Party**, Vicarage Hall

2.00pm-3.00pm **Carer's Christmas Carol Service** in church

**Thurs 15<sup>th</sup> Dec:** 1.00pm-3.00pm **Foodbank**, Church

**Fri 16<sup>th</sup> Dec:** 6.15pm **Kidz Klub**, ages 7-11, Old Vicarage

7.30pm **Community Carols outside the Ship and Trades Pub**, St. Mary's Island

**Sat 17<sup>th</sup> Dec:** 10.00am-12.00noon **Foodbank**, Church



4.00pm-5.30pm **SPLAT! Christmas** with Christingles, fun, games and refreshments - *Can you help? Please sign up at the back of church or speak to Jo Whittaker or Katy Muthalaly for more details.*

**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.

## NEXT SUNDAY 18<sup>th</sup> December

**10.30am Holy Communion**

**3.00pm "An Empty Chair for Christmas"** - for anyone missing a loved one at Christmas in Church

**6.30pm Christmas Carol Service** - with contemporary carols and candles in Church

**Other Services:** 11.00am **Christingle Family Carol Service**, St. Mary's Island.

**6.30pm Carol Service round the Christmas Tree**, Outside the Community Centre (in side school if wet), St. Mary's Island



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### Christmas at St Mark's

**Mon 19<sup>th</sup> Dec:** 10.30am **Coffee Shop Christmas Service** - an informal Christmas celebration with tea, coffee and cake, in Church.



**Sat 24<sup>th</sup> Dec:** 4.00pm-5.00pm 'Flock in to the Flock Inn' **Crib Service**, St. Mary's Island

**5.00pm All Age Christmas**

**Celebration in Church**

11.00pm **Christmas Eve Candle-lit Community Service**, St. Mary's Island

**Sun 25<sup>th</sup> Dec:** 10.30am **Celebrate Holy Communion with the church family - Please note that there will be No Evening Service.**

11.00am **Christmas Day Service**, St. Mary's Island

**Mon 26<sup>th</sup> Dec:** 12 noon **Boxing Day Festivities** with food, fun and good company for anyone who would otherwise be on their own. Speak to Karen or Trevor Dyer for more details.

**Tues 27<sup>th</sup> Dec:** 1.00pm **Post-Christmas Walk**, Lower Halstow - more details next week.



**Mon 9<sup>th</sup> Jan 2017:** 8.00-9.00pm **India 2018 Meeting** in Church.

This is an open meeting for everyone who would like to know more - those who would like to support in prayer or financially, as well as those contemplating going. More information to follow, but speak to Saju if at all interested.



## FAMILY NEWS

Please remember that Lynne Martin needs your Amazon or similar organisation's packaging. Many thanks.

Please remember our Christmas card tradition at St Mark's. You can write one card to all your friends at St. Mark's and place it on the Tearfund noticeboard at the back of church. The money saved can then be donated to Tearfund. Thank you for supporting Tearfund. Monica and Mo.



joy in His creation and bring harmony, love and peace to all who attend.

**Continue to pray for Amanda Maskell and her family** will be joining our leadership team at St. Mark's in Autumn 2017 as a curate.

**Pray** for the areas that are affected by Boko Haram in **Nigeria** and especially the farmers who are forced off their lands, so can't plant or harvest in a land of plenty... **Ask the LORD** to be with the aid agencies trying to help the starving and especially with parents who are forced to watch their children die of hunger and disease.

**Pray** for **Peter & Michele Guinness** and the work God does through them in France... **Ask the Lord** to give you a city, town or region in France to pray for this week and seek the LORD'S blessing and His saving grace... **Praise** that when we as God's people, "testify to the resurrection of the LORD Jesus" in our lives, "God's grace powerfully works" through us. (Acts 4:33)

**Pray** for justice in the forthcoming **Brexit negotiations** as this could adversely affect the weak and vulnerable in years to come.

**Ask the LORD** to give you a Mission Partner to pray for this week.

**Pray** for those undergoing surgery or other treatment: for **Michael Stacey** ... for **Steve Burtrand** now home from hospital... for **Keith Sheepwash**... for **Mo Chen**... for **Mike Young**... for **David Howlett**... **Pray** for all those affected especially their family and friends.

**Continue to pray** ... for **Anne Fordham**... for **Nev Piper**... for **Don Miller**... for **Richard & Jane Tolhurst**, and others known to us who are in need of God's comfort and healing touch.

Pray for our Mission focus for December: **All Mission Partners**... **Please pray** for our St. Mark's Group/events for December: **All Christmas Services**

## POINTS FOR PRAISE AND PRAYER



**"The LORD is my strength and my defence; He has become my salvation. He is my God, and I will praise Him, my father's God, and I will exalt Him"**

Exodus 15:2 (NIV UK Bible)

**Thank you LORD for being our wonderful defender in whom all that we are rests perfectly in Your saving grace. Please help us to remember just how much You love, care and support us through the whole of our lives. Amen.**

**Praise** for the **inter-faith Christian event** last Tues & Weds (6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> Dec) at Mid-Kent College...

**Pray** for everyone involved and for all those that the LORD touched in a meaningful way.

**Pray** for all those who abuse their positions of trust and for each and every victim involved...

**Ask the LORD** to give you a person, situation or country to bring before Him this week concerning abuse issues in its many forms... **Praise** that "God will bring down the wicked into the pit of decay... But as for me, I trust in You." (Psalm 55:23)

**Praise** for the enjoyable **Pub Carols** at **The Canterbury Tales** last Sunday and all the answers to prayer... **Pray** that everyone who attended felt God's joy and His marvellous peace.

**Pray** for for the upcoming **Pub Carols** at The Dog and Bone Pub today... **Ask the LORD** to share His

## Bible readings for December 2016

Day	Psalm	1 <sup>st</sup> Reading	2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading
Mon 12 <sup>th</sup>	40	Isaiah 49.14-25	1 Thessalonians 5.1-11
Tues 13 <sup>th</sup>	70	Isaiah 50	1 Thessalonians 5.12-end
Weds 14 <sup>th</sup>	75	Isaiah 51.1-8	2 Thessalonians 1
Thurs 15 <sup>th</sup>	76	Isaiah 51.9-16	2 Thessalonians 2
Fri 16 <sup>th</sup>	98	Isaiah 51.17-end	2 Thessalonians 3
Sat 17 <sup>th</sup>	71	Isaiah 52.1-12	Jude

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!**