

150 years



MARKtime

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

Living for Jesus; Loving Gillingham;
Learning Together

Mission Focus December & January:
**All Mission Partners & Medway
Night Shelter**

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

**18th December 2016 to 1st January
2017**

Advent 4



**10.30am: Holy Communion – SOS
Christmas Party today**

Theme: The Original Christmas
Playlist – Angel's Song

Reading: Luke 2: 8-14

**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 & events:

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

**6.30pm: Carol Service around the Christmas
tree** outside the Community Centre (in side
school if wet), St. Mary's Island

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.



**PLEASE NOTE: The Church office will be
closed from Friday 23rd December and will
re-open at 10.00am on Tuesday 3rd January
2017.**

WHAT'S ON - Week Beginning 19th Dec

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

7.30pm-9.15pm **Landmark** 'Deep-Pan, Crisp and
Even', Old Vicarage

Weds 21st Dec: 9.00am **Holy Communion**,
Church

10.00am **Ladies Group**, Old Vicarage

Thurs 22nd Dec: 1.00pm-3.00pm **Foodbank**,
Church

Sat 24th Dec: 10.00am-
12.00noon **Foodbank**,
Church

4.00pm-5.00pm 'Flock in
to the Flock Inn' **Crib
Service**, St. Mary's Island



5.00pm All Age Christmas Eve Celebration in
Church

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

SUNDAY 25TH DECEMBER



**10.30am: Celebrate Holy
Communion with the church
family**

6.30pm: No Evening Service

Other Services: 11.00am
Christmas Day Service, St.
Mary's Island

WHAT'S ON - Week Beginning 26th Dec

Mon 26th Dec 2016: 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 27th Dec 2016: 1.00pm **Post-Christmas
Walk**, Lower Halstow. The route will start from
the Brickfields car park, walk via Upchurch and
finish at the Three Tuns pub. Wear stout footwear
but it will not be suitable for buggies... Only
severe weather will cause cancellation! Bring food
if necessary, speak to Wayne or Lesley for further
details.

SUNDAY 1ST JANUARY 2017

10.30am: All Age Service

Theme: The Original Christmas
Playlist – Simeon's Song

Reading: Luke 2: 25-32

6.30pm: No Evening Service

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



WHAT'S ON – Week Beginning 2nd Jan 2017

Weds 4th Jan: 9.00am **Holy Communion** in
church

9.30am **Ladies Group** restarts, Old Vicarage
7.00pm-9.00pm **Faith & Light**, Vicarage Hall

Thurs 5th Jan: 9.15am **Playgroup** restarts,
Vicarage Hall

Fri 6th Jan: 6.15pm **Kidz Klub** restarts, ages 7-
11, Old Vicarage

SUNDAY 8th JANUARY 2017

**10.30am: Holy Communion – Commissioning
& celebration of the Faith & Light Team
SOS & Pathfinders Restart today**

6.30pm: Service of the Word

Theme: "Love in Ephesus"
Reading: Revelation 2: 1-7

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

3.00pm Charing House

5.00pm St Mark's House

WHAT'S ON – Week Beginning 9th Jan

Mon 9th Jan: 7.30pm **Landmark** restarts, Old Vicarage

Mon 9th Jan: 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 - speak to Saju if at all interested.



Weds 11th Jan: 1.15pm **Parents & Toddlers** restarts, Vicarage Hall

Sat 14th Jan: 10.00am-12.00noon **Faith & Light Juniors**, Vicarage Hall

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sun 29th Jan: After the morning Service a **Welcome Lunch** for those who are new to St. Mark's – more details to follow...

FAMILY NEWS



Mike & Denise Young want to thank everyone for their prayers and kindness during Mike's radiotherapy treatment which went well with few side effects.

Jane Bannar-Martin and family want to thank all those who have been praying for her daughter-in-law Jen following her serious stroke last year. Jen has made a remarkable recovery and has just been offered a new part-time job as a teaching assistant despite on-going problems with one arm and hand.

A new ALPHA Course will be starting 2nd February 2017 – More details to follow...

It's not too late to use the TEARFUND'S Christmas card board – one card for all your friends at St. Mark's Church. The money saved can then be donated to Tearfund in the envelopes provided. Thank you for supporting Tearfund. Monica and Mo.

POINTS FOR PRAISE AND PRAYER



"For see, I am creating new heavens and a new earth – so wonderful that no one will even think about the old ones anymore." Isaiah 65:17 (Living Bible)

LORD thank you that You are a creator God who didn't stop at the beginning, but

continues to create Your perfect image in us and in our world even when we try to shut You out. Please help us to remember that all of creation is in Your holy hands whatever it may look like from the outside. Amen.

Praise the LORD for the true meaning of Christmas, that God in His mighty love, "sent His one and only Son [Jesus] into the world that we might live through Him" and for Jesus to be, "an atoning sacrifice for our sins." (1 John 4: 9-10)

Pray for our world especially the bomb blast at a Coptic Cathedral in Cairo... the victims of Aleppo... for Yemen where 7 million people don't know where their next meal will come from... the Southern rail strike... **Ask the LORD** to give you a situation, country or person to pray for over the Christmas period.

Praise for... Pub Carols at the Dog & Bone... the Carol service at Medway Campus... Faith & Light and TABLEtalk Christmas parties... and for all His wonderful blessings to us each day.

Pray for the **Medway Night Shelter** and the people it helps... safety for the volunteers and that the LORD's spirit will be felt by everyone with His loving peace reaching even the hardest of hearts.

Pray for **Alpha** and for all the organisation behind the scenes will all be God led and blessed... **Ask the LORD** to help you to pray for a person who the LORD wants to be on this course and be blessed by Him.

Ask the LORD to give you a Mission Partner to pray for this week and a Christmas Service/event to cover in prayer.

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 & January: **All Mission Partners & Medway Night Shelter** ... **Please pray** for our St. Mark's Group/events for December & January: **All Christmas Services & Alpha**

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!**