

150 years



MARKtime

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

Living for Jesus; Loving Gillingham;
Learning Together

Mission Focus March & April:
Tearfund & All Mission Partners

St. Mark's Group/events for
March & April : PCC & Easter
Services

26th March 2017



4th Sunday of Lent

The Clocks went forward 1 hour!

10.30am: Mothering Sunday, SOS & Pathfinders will join us in Church for Holy Communion.

Theme: Lent series (7) "God's Word Fulfilled"

Reading: Luke 4:14-30

6.30pm: India 2018 Film & Prayer Night in Church, all welcome

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.*

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

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

Weds 29th March: 9.00am **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

Thurs 30th March: 1.00pm-3.00pm **Foodbank**, Church

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

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

Sat 1st April: 10.00am-12.00noon **Foodbank**

SUNDAY 2nd April

5th Sunday of Lent

10.30am: All Age Service

Theme: Lent series (8) "God's Fruitful Word"

Reading: Matthew 13:1-23

6.30pm: Holy Communion

Theme: Lent series (9) "God's

Trusting GOD completely means having FAITH that he know what is BEST for your life.

Inspired Word"

Reading: 2 Timothy 3:10-4:8

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

Small Groups/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.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Holy Week

Tues 11th April: 7.30pm-8.30pm **Holy Week Meditation** in Church

Thurs 13th April: 7.30pm-8.30pm **Maundy Thursday Foot Washing** in Church

Fri 14th April: 10.30am-11.15am **Good Friday meditation** in Church

11.30am **Walk of Witness** from Gillingham Library to Smith Square

Sun 16th April: 6.00am **Sunrise Service**, St. Mary's Island

10.30am **Easter Sunday Communion** in St. Mark's Church

11.00am **Easter Family Communion**, St. Mary's Island

6.30pm **No Evening Service at St. Mark's Church**

Sat 22nd April: **India 2018 Fundraising Games Event** in the Vicarage Hall. More details later.

Mon 15th May: 7.30pm 'Changing Our World - One Prayer at a Time'. An inclusive prayer event arranged by Simon Burton-Jones & Rochester Diocese World Mission Forum, at St Matthew's Church, Wigmore ME8 ONX; see poster.

Weds 17th May: 7.00pm for 7.30pm **Foodbank Prayer and Praise** @Pip 'n' Jims, King George Road, Walderslade ME5 0TZ

Sun 21st May: 6.30pm-8.00pm start of **Everybody Welcome Course** more details to follow...

Thurs 25th May - Sun 4th June: **Thy Kingdom Come Prayer Meetings** happening at various locations around Gillingham, Rainham and Bredhurst. See poster.

FAMILY NEWS

tearfund Thank you to everyone for the magnificent sum of **£2,284.00 (excluding gift aid)** raised on **Tearfund Sunday**. Start filling your collection boxes for next year!

Sun 23rd April: 10.30am **Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)** in Church as part of our worship.

We need to nominate and elect 3 Deanery Synod and 4 PCC members and choose 2 Churchwardens - please think and pray for wisdom as to who might fill these vacancies. Nomination forms available today.

The electoral roll list will close today and will reopen after the APCM, forms at the back of church.

Job vacancy: Administrator, 12 hrs per week, Salvation Army, Gillingham. See notice board or speak to Pauline.



POINTS FOR PRAISE AND PRAYER

"He (GOD) cuts every branch in me (Jesus) that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit He prunes so that it will be even more fruitful."

John 15:2 (NIVUK)

Please help us LORD to see our families, friends, community and the wider world through Your eyes. Make us more open and honest to You and Your leading, so that we reflect Your loving hope to a confused, hopeless and fearful world. Amen.

Pray for the recent terror attack in Westminster, London and for the victims, families and friends and wider public that have been affected.

Pray for **Tearfund** working in South Sudan, Northern Kenya, Somalia, Southern Ethiopia & Nigeria will have enough resources, strength and God's protection to achieve a huge difference to the drought, famine and conflict raging in these countries... **Praise** that when we say to the LORD, "LORD, [we] will wait for You; You will answer, LORD [our] GOD." (Psalm 38:15) He does!

Pray for discernment in the appointment of the 'Head of Youth, Children & Families' and the second interview of one candidate in April... for the **India 2018 Film & Prayer Night** tonight... for continued prayer cover for all those on the **ALPHA Course** and that all will be 'fruitful' in the LORD and grow to know Him better.

Praise for the £2331 we have raised for **India 2018** so far... that **Medway Foundation Trust** (Medway Maritime Hospital) has been taken out of special measures.

Pray for **APCM** on Sunday 23rd April... for the **PCC** and all the decisions made on our behalf... **Ask God's blessing** for all the members of PCC and give thanks for all the work that those members who are coming off this year have achieved in helping our church community function.

Pray for **Rob Byles** who has broken his leg and had to have several operations.

Ask the LORD to give you an Easter Service and a Mission Partner to bring before Him in prayer this week.

Praise the LORD in providing ample rain, so that Zimbabwe will produce enough maize for itself this season – first time since 2000 when the farm invasions began... **Praise** for the **Mike Campbell Foundation**, a Christian charity that supports the rights of farmers, their families and farm workers who are being threatened and in some cases murdered by agents of the corrupt government. This is now happening in South Africa too... **Pray** for all those who take a Christian stand against the ZANU PR government, which is now in election mode meaning more violence, abductions and false imprisonments. Remember Pastors like Evan Mugadza and many other citizens who are left in jail on remand for years without any chance of a verdict... **Ask the LORD** to continue to empower His church to take its place in the nation... **Praise** for the **Foundations in Farming courses** which are making an impact in helping people feed themselves and the wider community... for the discovery of using a washing powder called 'Boom' that is killing Fall Armyworm and thus achieving higher crop yield... for the 185 orphaned and poverty-stricken children that the charity is supporting with school fees.

Pray for **Samuel Wilkins**... 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 and Tina Piper**... for **Don Miller**... for **Keith Sheepwash**... and for others known to us who are in need of God's comfort and healing touch.

Pray for our Mission focus March & April: **Tearfund & All Mission Partners**... **Please pray** for our St. Mark's Group/events for March & April: **PCC & Easter Services ...**

Bible readings for March/April 2017

Day	Psalm	1 st Reading	2 nd Reading
Mon 27 th	77	Jeremiah 17.5-18	John 9.18-end
Tues 28 th	79	Jeremiah 18.1-12	John 10.1-10
Weds 29 th	90	Jeremiah 18.13-end	John 10.11-21
Thurs 30 th	86	Jeremiah 19.1-13	John 10.22-end
Fri 31 st	102	Jeremiah 19.14-20.6	John 11.1-16
Sat 1 st April	32	Jeremiah 20.7-end	John 11.17-27

Except for the first Sunday of the month **during term time**, groups for children and young teenagers meet at the Old Vicarage, 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!**