

150 years



0866-2016

# 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 Event for December:  
The Christmas Services

17<sup>th</sup> December 2017

## Advent 3

We warmly welcome Stephen Annor and his Parents Stephen and Akua, family and friends, as he is baptised this morning.



10.20am: **SOS Christmas Party**, Vicarage Hall. **Please collect your child by 12noon as they will not be walked down to church.**

10.30am: **Service of the Word with Baptism** - 'Making room in Bethlehem' Luke 2:1-7

3.00pm: **Empty Chair Service** - for anyone missing a loved one at Christmas, in Church.

6.30pm: **Nine Lessons and Carols** in Church



### Other Services @ St. Mary's Island:

11.00am: **Morning Worship**

6.30pm: **Carols in the Community**

### Other Events:

7.30pm-9.15pm: **Landmark**

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

9.45am **Ladies Group**, Old Vicarage

1.15pm **Parent & Toddlers Christmas Party & Nativity** with a very important visit from Santa! Vicarage Hall

2.00pm-3.00pm **Carer's Carol Service** in Church

**Thurs 21<sup>st</sup> Dec:** 1.00pm-3.00pm **Foodbank**, Church

**Sat 23<sup>rd</sup> Dec:** 10.00am-12.00noon **Foodbank**, Church



4.00pm-5.30pm **'For one night only - SPLAT! Christmas'** with crafts, activities, songs and a Christingle, in church for all the family. **We still need your help!** Can you: make cakes; help

with prepared craft activities; chat to families; or move chairs back afterwards? Also, donations still needed of clean glass jars (without labels). Please speak to Shane, Jo, Martha or Nat.

**Small Groups/Home Groups** meet in various locations at different times throughout the week. Please contact Pauline at church or in the Church Office if you would like to know more about being in a mid-week group.

## NEXT SUNDAY 24<sup>th</sup> December

### Advent 4 - Christmas Eve

10.30am: **All Age Christmas Eve Service** - 'Making room in for everyone' (shepherds) Luke 2:8-20



5.30pm: **Carols in the Pub** at King George V, Brompton

6.30pm: **NO** evening service @ St Mark's

### Other Services @ St. Mary's Island:

11.00am: **Family Service**

11.00pm: **Holy Communion**

## CHRISTMAS AT ST MARK'S

**Mon 25<sup>th</sup> Dec:** 10.30am: **Christmas Day Family Communion** - 'Making room in for Jesus'

**Weds 27<sup>th</sup> Dec:** 11.00am: **Annual Christmas Walk - Meet @ Hartlip Church.** There is plenty of parking, walk should take about 2-3hours, but not suitable for pushchairs and any dogs will need to be on leads. Then back to the Rose and Crown Pub (near the church) for a meal if you wish. For more details please speak to Wayne or Lesley.

**Sun 31<sup>st</sup> Dec:** 10.30am: **New Year's Eve All Age Friendly Service** in Church

11.00pm-12.15am **Watch Night Prayer & Praise Service** in Church

**Other Services @ St. Mary's Island:**

11.00am: **Morning Worship**



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**Sat 13<sup>th</sup> Jan 2018:** 10.30am-12.00noon **Faith & Light Juniors**, Vicarage Hall

## FAMILY NEWS

**Celia Dickinson** sends her Christmas greetings to all at St Mark's of whom she has many fond and happy memories.

**Medway Winter Night Shelter** will be open January - March 2018, please see notice board for more details of help required.

**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. Monica and Lesley.**



### **POINTS FOR PRAISE AND PRAYER**

**"Give thanks to the LORD of Lords. His faithful love endures forever. Give thanks to Him who alone does mighty miracles. His faithful love endures forever."(Psalm 136:3-4 NLT)**

**Thank you LORD that Your amazing love is eternal and Your faithfulness endures forever. Please help each one of us to accept these truths deep into our hearts and be willing to be transformed by it, so that we can reflect Your loving grace to our families, friends and the wider community, for Your glory's sake Amen.**

**Praise that Margaret Weston from the El Campello Christian Community writes, "There is so much to praise God for – so many answers to prayers, YOUR prayers. Thank you so much for persevering in prayer for us." She gives examples like the LORD providing a professional tenor for their concert who also gave his testimony and the exhibition being a great success. She writes, "We were full to bursting – and there was standing room only. There were many non-Christians present and they all heard about Jesus. Please praise God for all that He is doing and pray that He will receive much fruit from this event." She says that their music team continues to grow, their finances are more stable and that sometimes they run out of chairs on a Sunday!...Pray for wisdom and unity within the leadership and ministry teams... that the Youth Pastor settles in and is able to help lead their youth and children to become disciples of the LORD Jesus... for their Christmas events and celebrations.**

**Continue to pray** for all sides in the **Brexit** talks as they try to agree a deal that benefits everyone... **Pray** for **our government** as it tries to meet everyone's expectations on so many issues including social issues like health, housing, education and Universal Benefit.

**Praise the LORD** that the Mission to Seafarers' donated toiletries (Nov 26<sup>th</sup>) has contributed to 90 parcels so far.

**Continue to pray** for **Peter Marchand** that the medical team will make wise decisions in treating Peter's cancer... that the LORD will heal and bring comfort to Peter, Gill and their family at this difficult time.

**Pray** for the work of **The Family Trust** as they take the message of Jesus into our schools during the school term up to the Christmas Break.

**Praise** for the £311.60 given to the Royal British Legion from our Remembrance Day Service offering... **Praise** for the £445.00 raised for India 2018 from the quiz night.

**Ask the LORD** to give you a Christmas service or event to cover in prayer this week.

**Pray** for all those caught up in horrible situations such as terrorism, fire (especially the Grenfell Tower disaster and the 4 children who died in a house fire caused by arson in Salford) and traffic accidents.

**Pray** for the LORD'S healing in the Middle East and that hope, peace and justice will come to all.

**Pray** for the family, friends and neighbours of **Valerie Whitmore** (Bridge Baptist Church) following her funeral... for **Sarah** awaiting a move to suitable residential care... for **Rob Byles** following further surgery on his leg... for **Tina Piper**... for **Michael Stacey** for quicker post-operative healing... and many others known to us who need God's comfort and healing touch...

< **Pray for: All Mission Partners and the St** <  
< **Mark's Christmas Services.** <  
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### **Bible readings for December 2017**

<b>Day</b>	<b>Psalm</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Reading</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Reading</b>
Mon 18 <sup>th</sup>	40	Isaiah 38.1-8,21-22	Matthew 16.13-end
Tues 19 <sup>th</sup>	146	Isaiah 38.9-20	Matthew 17.1-13
Weds 20 <sup>th</sup>	46	Isaiah 39	Matthew 17.14-21
Thurs 21 <sup>st</sup>	121	Zephaniah 1.1-2.3	Matthew 17.22-end
Fri 22 <sup>nd</sup>	124	Zephaniah 3.1-13	Matthew 18.1-20
Sat 23 <sup>rd</sup>	130	Zephaniah 3.14-end	Matthew 18.21-end

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!**