

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

**St. Mark's Event/Group for December & January:** The Christmas Services & Our Community Unsung Heroes

**24<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> December 2017**

## Advent 4 – Christmas Eve



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

**5.30pm: Carols in the Pub** at King George V, Brompton. Come and join us, everyone welcome!

**6.30pm: NO** evening service @ St

Mark's

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

**11.00am: Family Service**

**11.00pm: Holy Communion**

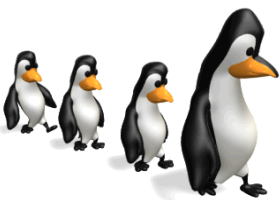
### Other Events:

**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

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

**Weds 27<sup>th</sup> Dec:** No Holy Communion



**11.00am: Annual Post 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.

**Thurs 28<sup>th</sup> Dec:** 1.00pm-3.00pm **Foodbank, Church**

**Sat 30<sup>th</sup> Dec:** 10.00am-12.00noon **Foodbank, Church**

## NEXT SUNDAY 31<sup>st</sup> December

### Christmas 1

**10.30am: New Year's Eve All Age Friendly Service** – 'Hostility & Hospitality – Making room in the world' Matthew: 2:1-23

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

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

**11.00am: Morning Worship**



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

**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.

**PLEASE NOTE: The Church office will be closed from Fri 22<sup>nd</sup> December until 10.00am on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2018.**

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**Weds 3<sup>rd</sup> Jan:** 9.00am **Holy Communion, Church**

**Mon 8<sup>th</sup> Jan:** 9.15am-12.15pm **St. Mark's Preschool** restarts in Vicarage Hall

**Weds 10<sup>th</sup> Jan:** 1.15pm **Parent & Toddlers** restarts, Vicarage Hall

9.30am **Ladies Group** restarts, Old Vicarage  
6.30pm **Faith & Light** restarts, Vicarage Hall

**Fri 12<sup>th</sup> Jan:** 6.15pm **Kidz Klub** restarts, ages 7-11, Old Vicarage

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

**Sun 14<sup>th</sup> Jan: All Children's groups restart.**

**Sun 21<sup>st</sup> Jan:** 10.30am **All Age Service – Indian Engagement followed by lunch & activities in Church**

**Mon 22<sup>nd</sup> Jan:** 12noon – 2.00pm **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, Methodist Church, Third Avenue, Gillingham**

**Sun 4<sup>th</sup> Feb:** 10.30am **Tearfund Sunday**

**Sun 25<sup>th</sup> Feb:** 10.30am **Ben Freeth** guest preacher.

**Thurs 22<sup>nd</sup> March:** **Men's Curry Night**, detail to follow in the New Year.

**Sun 25<sup>th</sup> March:** **APCM** following a short service – NOTE the early date!

## 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.



Congratulations to Jesosa and Kessington on the birth of their daughter Omosede Shonel on 20<sup>th</sup> November.



## **POINTS FOR PRAISE AND PRAYER**

**"How precious to me are Your thoughts, God! How vast is the sum of them! Were I to count them, they would outnumber the grains of sand – when I awake, I am still with You."**(Psalm 139:17-18 NIV)

**Oh LORD only You could have conceived of sending Your Son Jesus, a very part of You to save the human race from their sins by dying on a cross. Thank you for all Your blessings that You shower us with every day and especially through a baby born in a stable all those years ago.**

**Praise** for all the answers to prayer **Margaret Weston** from the **El Campello Christian Community** reports....**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.

**Praise** that **Brexit** has got to the next stage at last... **Pray** for **our government & the EU** as they try to find an agreement that is fair, just and Godly for all.

**Pray** for the seafarers who risk their lives in difficult weather to transport the goods we need and the good we need to sell... **Praise the LORD** for the **Mission to Seafarers** who try to meet their needs when they are in port... for Ian Graves and his team.

**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.

**Our Mission partner, Katy Barnwell** writes, "Thank you for being part of the journey during

*this past month in Nigeria. I felt very prayed for and was blessed in seeing the LORD at work."*...**Praise the LORD** the Mbembe team was able to do substantial work towards preparing the Mbembe-Adun New Testament for republication. The first edition has been out of print for many years. There was progress in both the Mbembe-Adun and Mbembe-Okolm languages, while training the team in translation principles, writing the language and using the software.

**Praise** for **Our Community Unsung Heroes** who do many tasks big or small, but unseen by the rest of St. Mark's which helps to make our community work better and feel blessed.

**Pray** for all the people coming to our services and events like SPLAT! over the Christmas season will come to know Jesus in a new and vibrant way.

**Praise** for the blessing of the **Medway Night Shelter** and ask the LORD to help everyone involved to find solutions to their problems, hope and God's love.

**Pray** for everyone who will be on their own or are missing loved ones for whatever reason over Christmas.

**Pray** for **Eddie Donaldson** and family following the death of **Mary-Jane** last week.

**Pray** for **Nat Read** unwell & waiting for further treatment... 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 & Medway Night Shelter** and the **St Mark's Christmas Services & Our Community Unsung Heroes**

### **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 25 <sup>th</sup>	110	Isaiah 62.1-5	Matthew 1.18-end
Tues 26 <sup>th</sup>	13	Jeremiah 26.12-15	Acts 6
Weds 27 <sup>th</sup>	21	Exodus 33.12-end	1 John 2.1-11
Thurs 28 <sup>th</sup>	36	Genesis 37.13-20	Matthew 18.1-10
Fri 29 <sup>th</sup>	19	Jonah 1	Colossians 1.1-14
Sat 30 <sup>th</sup>	113	Jonah 2	Colossians 1.15-23

### **Bible readings for January 2018**

<b>Day</b>	<b>Psalm</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Reading</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Reading</b>
Mon 1 <sup>st</sup> Jan	103	Genesis 17.1-13	Romans 2.17-end
Tues 2 <sup>nd</sup>	18.1-30	Ruth 1	Colossians 2.8-end
Weds 3 <sup>rd</sup>	127	Ruth 2	Colossians 3.1-11
Thurs 4 <sup>th</sup>	89.1-37	Ruth 3	Colossians 3.12-4.1
Fri 5 <sup>th</sup>	48	Ruth 4.1-17	Colossians 4.2-end
Sat 6 <sup>th</sup>	132	Jeremiah 31.7-14	John 1.29-34

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!**