

150 years



1866-2016

# MARKtime

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

Living for Jesus; Loving Gillingham;  
Learning Together

**Mission Focus:** All Mission  
Partners

**St. Mark's Event:**  
Christmas Services

**9th December 2018**

## Advent 2



**10.30am: Holy Communion:  
Promised Stars**

Bible Reading: Genesis 15:1-6

**6.30pm: Bible Study Stream**

**Other Services:**

**11.00am: Holy Communion,**  
St Mary's Island

**3.00pm:** Charing House

**5.00pm:** St Mark's House

**7.30pm-9.15pm: Summit (was 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 DURING THIS WEEK:

### Open Church Prayer Week

**Mon 10<sup>th</sup> Dec-Fri 14<sup>th</sup> Dec: 9.00am-3.00pm**

Our Church doors are open for anyone in the community to come in to pray, reflect and be in the presence of our awesome God.

**Weds 12<sup>th</sup> Dec: 9.00am Holy Communion,** in Church

**9.45am: Ladies Group,** Old Vicarage

### Office closing at 1pm



**1.15pm: Parent & Toddlers,** Vicarage Hall, last one until after Christmas. Fun, music and mini Nativity.

**7.00pm: Music Man Project Christmas Concert,** St. George's Centre, Chtham Maritime. Admission FREE - first-come, first-served for seating!

**Thurs 13<sup>th</sup> Dec: 1.00pm-3.00pm Foodbank,** Church

**Fri 14<sup>th</sup> Dec: 6.15pm Kidz Klub,** ages 7-11, Old Vicarage

**7.00pm: Carols in the Cargo Bar,** a REACH event, everyone welcome

**7.30pm: Carol Singing** outside the Ship and Trades Pub, St Mary's Island

**Sat 15<sup>th</sup> Dec: 7.00am-8.00am: Standing in the Gap** - *Praying for families, youth & children's ministries,* Old Vicarage. Please contact Dammy or Tim for more info.

**9.30-11.00am: 'Who Let the Dad's Out?'** for all children aged 0-6years and the men in their lives, Vicarage hall

10.00am-12.00noon: **Foodbank,** Church



**1.00pm: Peace & Hope,** (was Faith & Light) **Christmas Party,** Vicarage Hall



The Church Office will be closed over the Christmas period from Fri 21<sup>st</sup> Dec - Tues 1<sup>st</sup> Jan and Fri 4<sup>th</sup> Jan 2019.

## NEXT SUNDAY 16<sup>th</sup> Dec:

### Advent 3



**10.30am: Service of the Word:  
Sovereign Star**

Isaiah 40:1-31

**6.30pm: Parish walk & leaflet distribution,** we will be meeting at church then heading out on a prayer walk and delivering our

Follow the Star leaflets.

**Other Services:**

**11.00am: Morning Worship** St Mary's Island

**7.30pm-9.15pm: Summit (was Landmark)**

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**Thurs 20<sup>th</sup> Dec: 7.30pm Men's Curry Night,** Old Vicarage. This is a bring and share event. Please speak to Dammy for more information.

**Sun 23<sup>rd</sup> Dec: 10.30am Traditional Carol Service,** St. Mark's Church

**3.00pm: Empty Chair Service** - A reflective Service for anyone missing a loved one this Christmas, St. Mark's Church

**5.30pm Carols in the Pub,** King George V, 1 Prospect Row, Brompton ME7 5AL

**Mon 24<sup>th</sup> Dec: 5.00pm FOLLOW THE STAR** - A Christmas Festival of carols, drama, community choir and refreshments, St. Mark's Church

**11.00pm: Christmas Eve Midnight Service,** St Mary's Island

**Tues 25<sup>th</sup> Dec: 10.30am Christmas Day CELEBRATION** - All Age Service with Holy Communion, St. Mark's Church

**Mon 31<sup>st</sup> Dec: 11.00pm WATCH Night Service** - a service to look back with grateful hearts for all that God has done in 2018 and a hearty celebration in anticipation for all God is going to do in 2019

**Sat 5<sup>th</sup> Jan: 2pm-5pm Cinema Club,** Moana



## FAMILY NEWS



### Follow the Star needs you!

We need volunteers for our Follow the Star festival on 24<sup>th</sup> December. Can you offer your help serving nibbles and mulled wine or cleaning up after? If so please speak to Amanda or Lynda Smith.

Save money, help charity and send one card to all the church this year through Tearfund. See Monica Shergill, Lesley Boast or the welcome desk for more information.



### POINTS FOR PRAISE AND PRAYER



**"Ah, Sovereign LORD, You have made the heavens and the earth by Your great power and outstretched arm. Nothing is too hard for You."** Jeremiah 32:17 (NIV UK)

**LORD thank you that in these uncertain times You are Sovereign over everything even when it doesn't feel like it! Please help me remember to prayerfully wait for Your will to happen in my life and allow You to be completely in charge of my life. Then I will witness that 'nothing is too hard for You' For Your glory's sake Amen.**

**Bring to the LORD** anything you are concerned about and ask His guidance on the matter... **Praise** and, "Know that the LORD is God. It is He who made us, and we are His; we are His people, the sheep of His pasture." (Psalm 100:3)

**Pray** for the **Parish walk & leaflet distribution** happening next week and ask the LORD to open hearts and minds to hear His message of love, hope and salvation... **Ask the LORD** to give you a Christmas service or event to pray for this week.

**Pray** for the **Open Church Prayer Week** happening this week.

**Praise** for the **Medway Night Shelter** that will be opening its doors to help people who are living

on the streets at this time of year... **Pray** for protection of the volunteers and safety for all.

**Praise the LORD** for all that He is achieving through **Foodbank** this Christmas season... **Pray** for wisdom, strength and that God's love and grace will be felt by all who are in need.

**Pray** for our country in these uncertain times especially the **BREXIT** debates and important **BREXIT** votes in parliament.

**Praise** for all the joy and awe in worshipping the LORD through the **Music Man Project Christmas Concert** happening this week (Weds 12<sup>th</sup> Dec) at the St. George's Centre, Chatham Maritime... **Ask the LORD** to protect, encourage and bring the true meaning of Christmas into this occasion.

**Pray** for the **Empty Chair Service** happening on Sun 23<sup>rd</sup> Dec will be a blessing for all those who are missing loved ones at this time of year.

**Pray** for all those who are experiencing bullying or intimidation of whatever kind... **Praise** that, "I call on the LORD in my distress, and He answers me." (Psalm 120:1)

**Bring to the LORD** any situation whether in our church family, locally, nationally or internationally that you care about...**Praise LORD because,** "The LORD is good to all; He has compassion on all He has made." (Psalm 145.9)

**Pray** for **Sheryl Gowan** ...for **Lynda Smith** that all goes well with the DVLA response... for **Keith Sheepwash**... for **Derick Thom's sister-in-law Iris**.. for **Gill Marchand and family** ... for **Terence Herbert** ... for **June Bloor and family**...for **Michael Stacey** for continued healing to his wounds and that the doctors 'sort him out' so that he can come home soon...anyone you know who needs the LORD at this time for whatever reason.

**Please pray for: All Mission Partners & the Christmas Services**

### Bible readings for December 2018

Day	Psalm	1 <sup>st</sup> Reading	2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading
Mon 10 <sup>th</sup>	44	Isaiah 45.14-end	1 Thessalonians 1
Tues 11 <sup>th</sup>	56	Isaiah 46	1 Thessalonians 2.1-12
Weds 12 <sup>th</sup>	62	Isaiah 47	1 Thessalonians 2.13-end
Thurs 13 <sup>th</sup>	54	Isaiah 48.1-11	1 Thessalonians 3
Fri 14 <sup>th</sup>	86	Isaiah 48.12-end	1 Thessalonians 4.1-12
Sat 15 <sup>th</sup>	145	Isaiah 49.1-13	1 Thessalonians 4.13-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!**

#### **New Church Office Hours are:**

**Mon & Thurs 10.00am-3.00pm, Tues & Weds 10.00am-2.00pm, Fri 10.00am-2.30pm (by appointment only)**